

# [translation] Frozen Teardrop, Nocturne of Sorrow Preface



[inchoate-oeuvre.livejournal.com/8055.html](http://inchoate-oeuvre.livejournal.com/8055.html)



Peacecraft File 1

"Naturally they're going to stand in confrontation to me."

"Isn't that what you're waiting for?"

"Those boys (lit: they) will charge through/head straight on a different (vector) professionally. That's what it is to me, {Zechs Merquis}."

AC-195 EVE WARS Libra

Zechs and Noin

"It's the strong that make the weak! [With] the Earth [playing the role of] the strong, the reality is the colonies [have been made into] the weak; they're running [the colonies] down!"

"I hated anybody who was weak. They were incessantly trembling with fear over when they would allow themselves to attack. They couldn't trust anyone, couldn't say what they wanted to say, and I couldn't forgive them for it."

"That's what the strong do!"

"Zechs, there are no strong people! The human race, all of it, is weak! As are you and me both!"

\*

"It's over, Zechs."

"No, not yet! I still do not accept that I am weak!"

"The colonies themselves have decided and they will take the path to total pacifism..... your actions are meaningless!"

"This is, after all, [my?] bloody destiny..... don't think there's any escape from this crime (lit: sin)! This ends now, Heero!"

"Zechs, you're supposed to see the future!"

\*

"Why..... don't you kill me?"

"Relena would be sad."

"....."

\*

"You are too pure. And too kind. But if you weren't, I suppose that would mean [you] had no right to live."

\*

“In that case, I’ll (show you) I’ll survive through anything. As a soldier tougher than any other!!”

“Zechs!!”

“We’ll meet again, Heero!!”

AC-195 EVE WARS Libra

Zechs and Heero

MC-0022 NEXT WINTER

Brilliant golden light inundated the monitor. It was shining from the {Tall Geese Heaven} my father piloted. When the flood of light finally subsided, the two-hundred-fifty Mars suits went crashing down.

“Amazing, isn’t it.....” Katrine said beside me, her large eyes opened even wider [than usual].

“The particles of the gold light from {Tall Geese Heaven} are nano-defensers that were developed for anti-mobile doll uses. Long ago, Treize Khushrenada was apparently requested to develop plans [for a device that] would annihilate the mobile dolls that were sweeping over the AC era,” Naina briefly explained clear mindedly as she opened a lunch box.

“Is a technique from such a long time ago useful now?”

“It’s ‘superstition,’ no it’s ‘blind faith’ to think scientific techniques consistently surpass and progress what came before, Katrine.” Naina took out the sandwiches and told us it was a “late lunch” as she handed Katrine and me a sandwich.

“We aren’t at the rendezvous point yet?”

“No,” I said, shaking my head.

“Are they there already?”

With my mouth stuffed with sandwich, I nodded in response to Naina’s question and switched this hovercraft to (auto-hover) in position 234/3/3-4<. Of the vegetables stuck between the slices of bread, the tomato was juicy and especially good. While enjoying [the sandwich], I looked absently at the light that was approaching our ship. I knew at once that that luminous point was the small ship on which my mother and President Relena rode. A few seconds later, they were within docking distance. Behind me, Katrine got depressed and sighed heavily.

“I fought using my family [#1] without knowing anything.”

I wanted to say that wasn’t true. The nano-defensers instantly reset the data accumulated in the unmanned machines [#2]. But there was someone to manage the mobile dolls’ systems and if they could (feedback [#3]) the data, it would be possible to restart them. I believed that, if it was the Maganacs, they were sure to respond, but Naina began speaking before I could.

“Even so, they weren’t effective against Snow White and Warlock. Moreover, it’s only just recently that those [nanotech] abilities have reached the stage of being able to be used practically, even though the theory came from the previous era, active application of nanotechnology has been the result of recent research.”

The reason people around me called me “reticent” was, I believe, because Naina was just too quick.

“This is delicious!” Katrine’s smiling face shone. “I’ve never had a sandwich this good before!”

“Sister Hilde taught me,” murmured Naina as she took a bite; her expression was somewhat sad. “There’s a trick to

the distribution of mustard and mayonnaise..... she said it was the secret to drawing out the sweetness in the tomato.”

As she savored the flavor, Katrine muttered, “That old Professor Hilde Schbeiker, she’s been the authority on nanotechnology till now, hasn’t she?”

“Before she started the orphanage, her official [role] was as secretary in the Lanagrín Republic National Library..... in reality, she extracted data (that could be practically applied 236/2/14) from the enormous memory library from the past, and she’s been studying it since.”

“But ultimately that meant ‘Special Officer First Class Zechs Merquise’ was allowed to appear, right?”

On the wide range radar on the submonitor, a point of light appeared and it was leaving at a fast pace. It was {Gundam Epyon}, which had left from the above-mentioned battlefield at once, changing to flight mobile armor mode and withdrawing back to the Lanagrín Republic.

“That’s not right, Katrine.” Naina again made the denial before I could. “That hologram was a program that started with Dixneuf Neuenheim died..... Sister Hilde only extracted [the data] which was used for selfish purposes.”

It was the Neuenheim Company [#4] that made [our] father’s residual memories, which were in {Gundam Epyon}’s “ZERO system” into a three-dimensional real image but it was someone from the Lanagrín Republic who’d hacked [into whatever system] that lead us to the present situation. Both I and Katrine had initially believed Professor Hilde Schbeiker to be the ring leader. But Naina had said, “That’s absolutely unbelievable.” I could infer that, in the Lanagrín Republic government, there was an even more (unscrupulous) man behind the black curtain [#5]. Because Naina said it and she’d lived with Professor Schbeiker for several years, she probably wasn’t wrong. Their close relationship was vouched for by the deliciousness of this very sandwich.

“So the “PPP” [Perfect Peace Program] wasn’t Professor Schbeiker either?” When Katrine said that, the rear door opened and my mother and Lucretia and President Relena appeared.

“That’s backwards. Professor Schbeiker resumed her research in order to free Father Maxwell from the (spellbinding) PPP.” Even now, mother’s voice and Naina’s voice resembled each other. If I kept listening I wouldn’t be able to tell which was which.

“Besides, the basic concept of the “PPP” has existed since before we were born.” Mother spoke as she passé me the two microchips to which the “files in question” had been saved, “This is what we had copied at the Preventer base and this is what Professor Schbeiker sent us.”

“May I ask you a favor, Milu?” President Relena asked, using a tone of voice far too polite for a guy like me. “Yes.” If we put these two files with the “Zechs File” we had and ran them through the “ZERO system” to (calculation manage), a new file with a more diversified historical point of view would be made.

“What should I name the file?” A new file name was necessary to save it.

With hope-filled blue eyes, President Relena said, “‘Peacecraft File’ if you please.”

When I looked at the contents of the file, the oldest thing was from AC 130. Since Mother and Father were born in AC 176, this was pretty dated “Heero Yuy” was in the heading for people and for a second, I was puzzled. That was not the Snow White’s pilot’s codename, I finally remembered it was the name of the legendary space colonial leader. All the data until now had been unclear about the origin of Heero Yuy. He was born to a poor working class which had been developed by space 237/2/3 [adjectival order], put himself through school and after he studied abroad at a distinguished college, he specialized in political philosophy and think tank and stood up for the colonies is one theory, and another is that he originally came from an affluent family and when he went to the colonies on a

college study trip and saw how miserable [the colonists] lives were, he decided he ought to become the [kind of] politician who could save their pitiful lives. Either way, the leader Heero Yuy resolutely confronted/fought against the Earth Sphere United Alliance as a representatives of the colonies. How old would Heero Yuy have been in AC 130, I wonder. It was AC 165 when he appeared front and center I history and it was AC 173 when he filed/sued for independence for the colonies which had purported demilitarization and nonviolence. Commonly, it was referred to as the "{Heart of Space} Proclamation". Two years later on April , AC 175, he was assassinated for/by Earth's political calculation. It had only been ten years, but Heero Yuy had certainly worked himself to the bone and had continued to work passionately for [both] realizing peach on all of Earth and the wish for colonial freedom and the happiness of those who lived there. The image he left behind was like nothing so much as him running straight through (violent/super excited) history. The one thing I didn't understand was how he came to have so much enthusiasm. The original reason, like where the man himself originated from, has forever been vague. Now, in the new "Peacecraft File" I held in my hand, it seemed possible to have a glimpse at one part of Heero Yuy's character formation. My interest was suddenly piqued. It was probably one of my bad habits—being carried away by a sudden impulse and then wanting to put it into action. I asked Naina to pilot until we reached Elysium Island. And I received permission to look at the contents of the file from President Relena and Mother. I put on the virtual visor and [the word] "ZERO" immediately appeared. It began with the story of my great-grandmother, the Queen [#6].

#### AC-130-144

In a small country in Scandinavia on Earth, in the Cinq Kingdom's Peacecraft household, [identical] twin princesses were born. It was spring of AC 130. Princess Sabrina and Katerina. They both had beautiful shining blonde hair and clear blue eyes. This royal house had an old custom of not raising twins together. The elder sister Sabrina would remain in the kingdom and the younger sister Katerina would leave her filial home a few months after her birth and be sent to colony L-1 C11234, one of the Cinq Kingdom's space colonies. For Katerina, that was a happy thing. It was Sabrina, the [future] successor to the throne who was the unhappy one. She, who would one day be the queen, received a rigid education and had to master the manners and etiquette of the European court passed down from long ago. Moreover, at this time, the Cinq Kingdom was in a state of decline. Cinq was abused by the calculations/expectations of the big countries neighboring it. Revolutionaries and rebels who resisted the Earth Sphere United Alliance, at the end of a withdrawal war 238/1/16, often took refuge in the Kingdom [of Cinq]. The Alliance Army likewise cast a net to produce similar results. From a geopolitical point of view, a country occupying a peninsula in Europe shoulders something like a burden of being fated to get swept away in the land power of the [main] continent no matter what. [Now situated] between a rock and a hard place, the revolutionaries and rebels challenged [Earth?] to a decisive battle intending to gain the upper hand, but the Unified Alliance with its overwhelming military power unleashed an annihilating battle. It was no small trouble for the Cinq Kingdom which was [unfortunately] a convenient battlefield. After all, there was no way for them to be a party to the rebels and revolutionaries 238/1/1-2< and the contriving of a military budget from their mean financial situation obliged them to participate in the war 238/2-1. After the war, the meager reparations and insurance paid out by the large countries was assigned for the reconstruction of the ruined country. [Cinq] was a terribly poor country; neither blessed with natural resources nor a thriving industrial sector; it lacked a single (positive) prospective. It was the people's love of Princess Sabrina with her youth and dazzling beauty and [their love of] the humble royal house of Peacecraft that they didn't erupt in dissatisfaction or instigate a revolution or revolt. Being raised in such a country as that, Sabrina was bound to be a big of a homebody; she grew up to have a diffident and gentle character. Undoubtedly, she was a sheltered princess raised in the tender care (of her wealthy family). She loved art and was deeply interested in pictures and music especially. Her seldom seen smile was said to be exactly like that of an angel. Yet her blue eyes were always full of worry/fear. The one who best understood the love girl 238/2/9< was the Norwegian forest cat given to her on her thirteenth birthday. It was a black and white long haired male and he was named "Somewhere." He was given that name probably to symbolize Sabrina's own desires 238/2/3-4<. It seemed to be a name from a film from a long time ago in which Judy Garland sang {Over the Rainbow} in the opening sequence, but like pets everywhere, the name "Somewhere" was abbreviated to "Sam." Suppose cats have the ability to empathize/sense when a person is feeling lonely or sad. When she was feeling depressed, Sabrina sat at the piano, Sam always laid on his stomach on the left side of the keyboard and depressed the keys such that they made a discordant sound.

Whenever she heard that, she'd giggle and say "Play it once, Sam," which is a line from the movie "Casablanca" ((which comes from the same era as the Wizard of Oz)) and then she'd begin to play. It wasn't jazz, neither was it "As Time Goes By." [#7] Sam let out a small "meow" and Sabrina gently played Chopin's "Nocturne #1 (夜曲第一番) [#7.5]" at something of a slow tempo. Occasionally, Sam turned over in his sleep and played another discord, but it wasn't bad. Playing with her eyes downcast, Sabrina's thoughts [were of] "The never ending battles of this world (戦い絶えないこの世)" a grievous lonely nocturne 238/3/7-8<. Or perhaps a (considerate) lullaby for Sam curled up beside her.

Meanwhile, Princess Katerina was living a happily bohemian life on the space colony. Raising her was the Darlian family which had [also] been entrusted with the governing of the colony. Since she was little, she enjoyed horseback riding early in the morning, enjoyed weekly spacewalks, and was friendly with the workers who constructed the colony. They called Katerina "The Lady of the House of Darlian" and looked forward to the cookies and chocolate she always took to them. Around the time she turned thirteen, there's an (anecdote) about how she [got to] ride a (large scale) space work suit equipped with manipulators and help in the construction of the spaceport. There were several magnanimous people in the Darlian family also, they only slightly rebuked her and continuously overlooked her simple innocence.

What gave rise to the difference between the two princesses Sabrina and Katerina, born on the same day, has its roots in the difference of their learning environments: strict education versus laissez-faire 239/1/12-14<. But it was likely the scenery that was the [deciding factor]. One [place] was carving out a new world, reclaimed land filled with built-in happiness 239/1/7-8. The other was repeating a grievous fate of reconstructing broken things [only to have them] broken again, the Earth. There was a large gap between the two. One could imagine it was mostly the differences in their two worlds that influenced how markedly different their personalities, behavior, even their expressions were—to the extent that one would not think them to be twins. The world was seen by the sister with eyes wide-open and the sister with the downcast eyes wishing to forget misfortune—say a building of rebar, would undeniably be seen different by either girl.

## AC 145 SPRING

Until she turned fifteen, Katerina's studies were overseen by an elderly female tutor. One day, she made this request to the Darlians: I want to return to Earth and spend my final years in the comfort of my home town. I'll (bring) the foremost teacher from the L-1 colony cluster to teach in my stead. The name of that teacher was "Heero Yuy" and while he was still a college student, he was apparently serving as a part-time instructor at the high school. Yet he had no major, he was equally skilled in science and maths (type classes) as he was well-versed in culture, philosophy and art; he was advertised as being knowledgeable in various and diverse fields [of study].

"Aren't you a little young [to be a tutor]?"

In addition to being Katerina's tutor, there were misgivings about their similar ages.

"If you'll pardon my saying it, [teaching] a person as lively as the young mistress is too heavy a task for an old lady such as me." She spoke as though she were thoroughly exhausted. The Darlians understood. For a daughter of the royal house, Katerina surely was far too restive. Besides, if they could financially assist a brilliant young man putting himself through school, they believed that was worthwhile. A few days later, Heero Yuy arrived at Katerina's rooms. From afternoon to evening, Katerina was allotted study time.

"Pooh, you're the new teacher?" Katerina gave the wallflower-like youth an appraising look from head to toe. Depending on the angle, he was somewhat handsome, but his clothes were unfashionable, his shoulder's lacked breadth and his chest was thin, he was feeble..... was the impression he gave. Compared to him, the colony construction laborers were far more attractive she thought.

"I'm Heero Yuy. Pleased to meet you." Their age difference was four years.



“So, what ‘s a young teacher like you got to teach me?”

“I wonder,” Heero said brusquely. “What do you want to learn?”

“Nothing..... I don’t need a tutor. A study program is fine.” After that, those two didn’t exchange another word (while in that room). Katerina dispassionately took care of the subjects the computer put out; Heero read the book he’d brought. When the appointed time arrived, Heero Yuy went home that day without having taught a thing. The next day was the same and the day after that, Katerina was tired from her horseback riding lesson and so she napped [instead]. For all that the young instructor should have said a word of caution, that would wake her up and so he didn’t [say anything] 240/1/13-14. He did nothing but merely continue reading his book.

\*

This Heero Yuy youth was lacking in a thing called enthusiasm. To the extent that his college friends nicknamed him “The Extreme Rationalist.” Regarding his studies—no, regarding life itself—he had the attitude of not wanting to spend energy unnecessarily on passion or grudges or the like. Even the daily drawing of breath was done with efficiency, he didn’t open his mouth needlessly, he was calm, frank, and he consciously repressed the amplification of (heat entropy) 240/1/3<. He wasn’t able to make ends meet on the meager income of a part-time high school teacher [so] recently, he was doing manual labor in colony construction. The manual labor was restoring and reinforcing the colony’s outermost wall, there was gravity because of the centrifugal force but it was a hard [work environment] for the lack of oxygen. It was [extremely] difficult for small bodies to withstand [the work] and he realized he couldn’t continue the work if he wasn’t very “efficient.” Furthermore, in an airless work environment, it was “efficient” to avoid speaking needlessly. He made that awareness (lit: consciousness) his own personal creed. Excluding the privileged classes, the people living on the colony as a whole had a difficult life all around. But this poverty could also be seen on Earth, but if they believed they were creating the way to the future, it was possible to live contentedly. About six years ago in AC 139, the laborers began the “colony self-government system.” However, the Earth Sphere Unified Alliance did not recognize it in the least and under threat of using military power, the colonies gave up their autonomy before a year had passed.

Nevertheless, the people of the colonies were cheerful. They were naturally endowed with something of a pastoral carefreeness; their optimism prevailed. There were many people who thought “What? Just by dint of not having national disasters makes [space] the place to be!” In truth, the activists for the colonial independence promotion faction at the time took part in neither ideological complains and street orators nor extreme uses of force like terrorism. That can be interpreted [as meaning] the power of Earth’s suppression was still within a bearable (scope). About five years after that, the Earth Sphere United Alliance began slowly to apply pressure. On Earth, terrorism and disturbances were always happening and yet space was stable and peaceful. And the Earth couldn’t abide by that. They must have believed it was rather impudent [for the colonists] to assert their own rights from the safety of the colonies. It’s likely this “contempt” and “jealousy” became the driving force behind the Alliance Army’s (silent/tacit) pressure against the colonies. Meanwhile, for the idealists with [advocated] anti-Earth Unification Alliance [sentiments], many of whom attended the same college as Heero Yuy, there was no end to their being taken away by the Alliance’s military police. The idealists and activists were primarily graduates of this college and just like that their academically gifted underclassmen got involved, so naturally, [Heero] formed a connection [to the rebellion] via his friends. Before [they] knew it, the student activists had made the college into the base of operations for the underground organization. Heero was invited to join the group multiple times by one of his friends. He was, however, indifferent as per usual. As he understood it, activities of an illegal underground organization were “meaningless” and “useless.” The friend who had invited him was later to become “Doctor J,” the gifted scientist who developed the {Tall Geese} and {Gundam} but the particulars about [him] during this student activist time are unknown. Heero was consciously endeavoring to erase his presence. That was the best way. Taking action to help perfect strangers without so much as remuneration was more of a bother than anything else. It became a bother to keep refusing such invitations so he submitted a request for a leave of absence. He had already selected the theme of his (graduation thesis) and he was an honor student with a waived tuition so there was no reason to hesitate. It

was then that the talk of being the Darlians tutor came around.

\*

About a week had passed. In that time, the most conversation they'd had with each other ended at the greeting level. Katerina was bored. The indifferent tutor wasn't scolding himself over it, that much was self-evident. "If this is how it's going to be, my old teacher was more interesting than this tutor," she thought. Katerina was gazing at the scenery outside the window and Heero was reading the book in his hand as usual. While the colonies environment system was man-made, it sent an elegant/graceful spring breeze across the window. The soft lace curtains fluttered in the breeze. Because she was quite bored, Katerina asked a question as she gazed at the wind, "Sensei [#8], do you have a family?"

"My parents are dead and my elder sister got married and went to Earth," he answered concisely. After Katerina turned around, she inspected Heero once again. Another question floated up in her heart, one that she wanted to ask [Heero] who had an indistinct personality that could melt into the background.

"Sensei.....what is the meaning of us being in space?"

Heero spoke without taking his eyes off the book he was reading, "When you say meaning, do you mean the significance of existence? Or are you asking for a more scientific evaluation of mankind?"

"I don't know. Both, I suppose."

As he turned a page, he spoke dispassionately, "If you think about it from the social theory of evolution 241/2/7< [perspective], mankind's [journey] into space might be said to have the significance of being the next step necessary to continue with the so-called {new awakening}. But from a scientific perspective, the feat of expanding the living spaces from Earth to the Earth sphere is a (meritorious deed) of all human kind and so one may consider there to be no difference between the people in space and the people on earth."

"Wonderful!" Katerina's eyes were wide open. "I can't understand a thing you're talking about!" She pressed Heero with excitement.

Heero snapped the book he was reading shut and his eyes went to Katrine and he asked, "What do you mean?" Heero, though he was feeling put upon, likely could not flat out [refuse] a student who'd taken an abrupt interest in him. He decided to explain his remarks. To start with, it was necessary to define the meaning of each (and every) word concisely. To punctuate the meaning of those words, there was historical social background and for the sake of speaking plainly, it was necessary to use even more words and it seemed that the things difficult for Katerina to understand lined up [one after the other]. Katerina couldn't help herself; she interrupted Heero's never-ending talk with a question.

"So ultimately, does it mean something or doesn't it?"

"Ultimately.....there isn't a conclusion to that question 241/3/7<."

"There isn't a conclusion?" Katerina's shoulders slumped dejectedly.

After heaving a deep sigh, Heero said, "Is it that important to have a conclusion?"

"What?" Katerina was dumbstruck. She believed the conclusion or solution was the most important part [as it was on] papers and tests.

"To observe things from several angles and take that data as a basis for making a judgment, to personally consider opposing views—that's what's important."

“What, a ‘discussion’? Is that a conclusion?”

“It might be called that. It might not. In this case, the conclusion is synonymous with a ceasing of thought. There is meaning in the continuing of thought.

“It’s settled! There is meaning!”

“?”

“I mean, there’s meaning to being in space, right?”

“No, that’s not what—” Several hours passed in a blink. The gears of sensitivity and logic failed to catch as they were of different shape and had differing numbers of teeth. True to those words, their conversation continued without [those “gears”] engaging. The appointed [finishing] time for the day arrived.

“That’s all for today.”

“Sensei, I’ll see you tomorrow.” Katerina was interested in the youth who had enumerated the words she’s never heard of before.

“Oh, yeah……” Heero had remembered the joy of communicating—[and art] which he had been starting to forget. The next day also Katerina began with a simple question, “Hey, do you think there is a god?”

“It is believed that he doesn’t exist but he is thought to be necessary; he exists but is thought to be unnecessary. It is antinomious but both points of view are viable if you grasp the religious side metaphysically.”

“Wonderful, I don’t understand at all!”

“That’s good. Knowing your own ignorance [#8.5] is more valuable (meaningful) than any sort of knowledge.”

“Why aren’t men equal? Is it because there isn’t a god? Or because there is? Isn’t every one equal before God?” After that, their talk continued like mismatched gears as it had yesterday. The day after that also had similar dialogue and it continued [like that] ever after. The [topics of discussion] didn’t stop at philosophy or conceptual things but extended to the problems that occurred from history and customs [#9], verified by contemporary examples; and from the most recent of space sciences to classical literature. The verbal exchanges between the two may well have been nonsensical fun. Yet it was absolutely not meaningless. It was during this time that Heero and Katerina’s sense of values went through a (chemical change).

For Heero, the “efficiency” that had been his personal creed up until now had been rethought as it was not so very “inefficient.” Thinking that short words and speaking in a straightforward manner made something understandable had had the opposite effect. Also he who did his utmost to eschew the “meaningless” and “wasteful” in reality stopped his “deliberating” and “fumbling/groping.” Until now, he was supposed to attach the greater importance to the “motive” than to the “result,” but somewhere along the way, he had become a conclusionist or utilitarian and he noticed he’d fallen into [a pattern] of “stopping thinking.”

Katerina, on the other hand, came to know of the existence of field of view that was from new, different dimension. She felt the possibilities were limitless. Living in space definitely had meaning. And even living on Earth had some kind of meaning. That’s because, Earth or space, they both existed in space. Either one had their own sense of value, if one may be so bold in speaking, 243/3/9< if one discovers there is meaning to the existence of mankind, a person’s individual thoughts are precious and there is no particular need to limit them to history or place or environment. There is not a single wasted hour. There is not [a single] meaningless thought. There is value even in an [empty void]. Aren’t these [colonies] a good example of [exactly] that? That doesn’t mean she had clearly thought all that 244/1/1-2. But several years later, it was publically recorded that around this time, she seemed to get a feeling in her “heart” for those/these sorts of things.



That was in the rough draft of the composition “Heart of Space” which was written after this time by the leader Heero Yuy. It is said that a single letter of Katerina’s that bound up the feelings she had in her youth was the origin of Heero’s proclamation.

There may have been (romantic #9.5) feelings between them. Incidentally, the letter was not a love letter. Even years later, the relationship between Katerina Peacecraft and Heero Yuy may have remained as that of teacher and pupil. Or that may have been a façade [maintained] to the very end—.

## AC-145 SUMMER

The area around the Cinq Kingdom on Earth was once again caught up in a new dispute. This time, it was a large scale [affair] where dozens upon dozens of ships in the rebellion’s fleet entered the bay and made a sea blockade. In response to this, the Alliance Army opened close cooperation between land, sea and air forces and made to commence an even bigger war of seize and annihilation. Already at that stage, it couldn’t be helped that the land of the Cinq Kingdom had burned to the ground. However, because of that a situation which hadn’t been predicted had developed. The surprising thing was that the [newly] arrived rebel special forces infiltrated the Cinq Kingdom palace and all at once set up an occupation, taking the royal family as hostages. In so doing, the Alliance army became unable to carelessly/thoughtlessly interfere. However small a country the Cinq Kingdom was, [the Alliance] could not abandon them when the royal family had cooperated with the Alliance’s army. Furthermore, if they did choose to desert [Cinq], it would betray the trust of all the other countries cooperative with the Alliance. The Alliance army’s teamwork collapsed, it was inevitable that the army brought ruin upon itself. Without starting battle, the Alliance army and rebel’s army got into a cohesive state/condition. At the time, (only) Sabrina and her cat Sam were calling upon Marquis Weyridge in a neighboring country and so [managed to] escape the [ordeal]. When Sabrina heard the news, she was stunned. She could not return to her home country with things being as they were.

“Oh.....Father, Mother.....”

“Princess Sabrina, this must be terribly difficult for you, but for the time being, let us take refuge at the Darlians in the L-1 Colony.” This Marquis Weyridge was a member of the Romefeller Foundation’s European nobility and, as he was later to become, grandfather of Relena Peacecraft; he supported her [Relena] in secret. [#10]

“We’re going to space?”

“That’s right. Northern Europe is likely to become enveloped in a fierce war (from now). While it’s unfortunate, I’m afraid we cannot vouch for the safety of your family 244/3/7-8.”

“Why that’s.....”

“According to intelligence I have received, the rebels have planted informants in every country in Europe. The rebel army was able to easily infiltrate the palace probably because there was an informant among the royal family’s attendants.”

(Suddenly) it may be difficult to believe but the Cinq Kingdom’s recent financial difficulties may have changed the [loyal] hearts of the people.

“There’s more, there are rumors that King Peacecraft himself is assisting the rebels. Princess Sabrina. There is nowhere on this Earth that is safe for you.” At this point in time, there was no room for any other option.

“The royal house Peacecraft must not die out here. I beseech you to comply,” [said Marquis Weyridge].

This was the point where Sabrina came to realize the magnitude of [being the] Peacecraft successor that she had heard about for many a year. At the Darlians house in the L-1 Colony was her younger sister Katerina. She was now the only blood relative Sabrina had who was unharmed. There was no one else she could count on.

A few days later, Sabrina headed to the spaceport in the suburbs of Brussels. As a high class limousine would stand out far too much, they used a regular car. The rain that had fallen until the previous night had lifted, the new green of early summer sparkled so lovely. From the sunroof, the sky was a cloudless, fathomless blue. But Sabrina was

overcome with worry for her country and family. A (seven color) rainbow stretched [across the sky] beyond the windshield.

"Somewhere over the rainbow."

Sabrina sang [that song] quietly. It was a song that gave her a small measure of courage.

"Don't worry. Space is the land of your dreams," Marquis Weyridge said kindly from his seat at her side. Contrary [to expectation] the Brussels spaceport had been put under martial law. There had been a throng of European royalty and nobility thronging to escape to space as Sabrina was, but the upper echelons of the Alliance army would not permit it. It was unknown how many [among the would-be refugees] were rebel informants. Furthermore, they could not forgive [the royals and nobles] for the cowardice of the privileged classes as they tried only to save themselves.

"That's just the way it is, the rebels are taking advantage! 245/2/5" From the car, Sabrina looked in fear at the shouting soldiers. They couldn't get into space like this. Marquis Weyridge returned, "I have spoken to Duke Cinquante Khushrenada of the Romefeller foundation. I understand there is a special flight going to the colonies for observation as an 'Earth Delegation.'"

"We'll be allowed to take that flight?"

"Yes....." The cat Sam was peacefully sleeping on Sabrina's knees but Marquis Weyridge who had come up beside [her] picked him up. "I'm sorry but you can't take him into space."

"I understand..... please take care of Sam." Sam "meowed" in the quiet voice of the just-woken up. "I'll be coming right back.....be a good boy."

"Meow, meow." Sabrina had been up to this point a dauntless girl, but when she saw Sam's sad face, she shed her first tears.

Cinquante Khushrenada greeted Sabrina with an elegant smile playing on his lips.

"You're as beautiful as the rumors would have me believe....."

"It's a pleasure to meet you."

"We are going to visit the House of Winner on the L-4 Colony, then inspect L-2 and the L-1 Colony cluster in that order. It will take some time, but I shall see the young lady arrive at C11234." Cinquante Khushrenada, who was aiming to become the next executive/leader of the Romefeller Foundation, was a middle aged gentleman. The birth of his daughter Angelina was seven years down the road and the birth of his son Treize would be twenty six years later. Not even the upper levels of the Alliance army could go against the Romefeller Foundation. Furthermore, the (colony dispatch) of this 'Earth Delegation' had been decided well before the current rebel uprising; they had no right to interfere. Sabrina was passed off as Cinquante's niece, given a (free pass) and was able to board the shuttle.

The shuttle left the atmosphere. For the first time, Sabrina saw the Earth spread out under her eyes. That beauty was something she would probably remember her whole life. The endlessly extending space must have given some impression to the girl who had spent her entire life thus far sheltered in the palace. It wasn't excitement nor was it fear. It was peace of mind—that night, eternal night. The time when she felt most at ease, went on forever. That was what she felt. For Sam who she had left behind, she played a nocturne in her heart.

## AC-145 AUTUMN

They finished the visit to the House of Winner on L-4 safely and completed their inspection of L-2 Colony without mishap. However, before boarding the shuttle to head to L-1 Colony, Cinquante called out for Sabrina to stop.

"It would be possible to have you remain here on L-2 of course, but if someone notices, that place would come to nothing."

"What?"

"Princess Sabrina.....please take this." It was an astrosuit that she was given. "As it was my old friend Marquis Weyridge who made the request, I will see my promise through to the end." Cinquante dropped his voice and began talking. "This shuttle will be blown up before it arrives at the L-1 Colony. As such, immediately prior to that, please get in an escape capsule and wait for rescue."

"Explode?"

Cinquante checked his own astrosuit as he spoke, "Yes.....it's an act of terrorism put together by colonial terrorists who boarded on L-2."

"What do you mean?" Sabrina didn't have the slightest idea [what he was on about]. "If you know [the shuttle] will be blown up, shouldn't something be done to prevent it?"

"These men are players in their own movie [alt: this is their charade]. That is their outline. For the sake of bringing Earth together, it's necessary to make space the (imaginary) enemy."

"I don't quite understand."

"Your highness's kingdom has been completely taken over by the rebels and they have begun aggressions against the neighboring countries. It looks as though the Peacecraft royal family has joined forces with the (dirty) [rebels]."

"My father has....." By the treacherous actions of the royal house of Cinq, Sabrina's situation had become that much worse. She would not be able to return to Earth again was her intuitive thought. Cinquante spoke with fear/danger, "Princess, have you never thought about why Earth, which is supposed to be unified, is so divided and continues to fight?"

"Even so, I don't believe it is right to demonize the people of the colonies."

"I agree. However, [right] now, at this point in time, if we do not concoct antagonism between [Earth] and Space, Earth's ruin cannot be stopped." Beautiful Earth was being destroyed. That was something Sabrina could easily imagine. It was easy to think of 246/3/12 the exploded streets of the Cinq kingdom spreading all across the globe.

"But....." wouldn't doing [was they were doing] incur/invite that much more confusion/disorder? She thought. It made a reasonable amount of sense in thinking that turning the rebels and colonies both into enemies and it was hopeless to fight the Alliance 246/3/13-15<.

"Do not fear.....there truly is no power in space that holds military force. Moreover, controlling the rebels can be accomplished without too much effort."

"Even so," the people of the 'Earth Delegation' were harmoniously boarding the shuttle. "What about them?"

"They are people of the old order of the Foundation.....sacrifices must be made for the sake of welcoming the new era." There was no reason for Sabina to assent. However, she thought she was obliged to obey Cinquante.

"If you call it something, then this is the 'Darkness of the Genesis.'" His eyes with their (forced) resolution and his bearing—steeped with unchanging determination—could not be defied. "I'm certain it was C11234. In the vicinity [of that colony], the time bomb will go off. I'll guide you to the escape capsule." [They] boarded the shuttle with surprising calm. But at the time, Sabrina thought: Isn't this when I am supposed to die? Her life up until now had all been for the sake of the Cinq kingdom. As long as that country was under the control of the rebels, there was no point in extending her life. Carrying such grievous thoughts, there was no point to succeeding to the throne of Cinq.

The shuttle left the spaceport and continued on as it overlooked the moon. Beyond the opposite side of the moon was the L-1 colony cluster. The huge lunar surface, seen from the window, was a grey land covered in countless craters. Certainly it was an inorganic/mineral thing that was associated with the afterlife. As Sabrina gazed at that scenery, she hardened her resolve: wouldn't it be easier if she died? Wouldn't she be free if she dies? That was the grave impression she was under. Before she knew it, they had closed in on the L-1 colony cluster. Cinquante who had been behind Sabrina smiling the whole while she gazed out the window, was standing.

"It's about time. Shall we make our preparations?"

\*

That day, Heero Yuy didn't have his tutoring job and he was hard at work at the colony construction [job]. He'd had a bit of a [financial] break [between his two jobs' income, but he'd continued [the construction work] with intent to get his body in shape. The rambling discussions with Katerina, he felt, had become a persona source of energy. He'd continued the [labor] job for more than six months and become rather adjusted to it and his chest had filled out as his muscles strengthened and his shoulders broadened. Just recently, he'd become able to go out into [open] space in an astrosuit; the (contents) of today's work was mainly delivering materials using a large-scale work machine with attached manipulators. He had finally become accustomed to the [suit's] handling. Suddenly, an image of astrosuited Katerina (clung) to the central monitor. When he opened the commlink, he could hear her ever-cheerful voice.

"Sir, are you working hard?"

"Don't interrupt me."

"But I was lonely because I couldn't see your face." She hung around with a carefree smile on her face 247/3/6.

"Go home."

"The talk about the theory of evolution the day before yesterday, it was interesting."

"Really? That's good."

"If a species does adapt to its environment as Darwin says, humans living in space like us just might become a new type of human."

"That wouldn't be for dozens of generations.....For all that we are in space, it's a change acquired postnatally. It's not hereditary and there's talk that the real issue is the danger of giving birth in space. However, according to the most recent DNA analysis, there is no room for idle talk 248/3/13-14. Would you please go away!"

"What's that?" Katerina saw two points of light leave from the shuttle that was crossing [behind] Heero.

"?" Heero brought up the viewpoint preceding [them] on the monitor. Then, the shuttle was suddenly swallowed up in a blinding flash and disappeared.

"And explosion?"

"Shit." Heero drew Katerina up with the manipulator arm and used the large work machine to shield Katerina [from the blast]. There were only a small number of fragments from the exploded shuttle, but they came flying. If the large scale work machine hadn't been there, Katerina may have suffered a direct hit and been killed.

"That light just now came from the escape pods." Heero promptly referred to the (space work use manual) on the monitor and confirmed the handling of emergency escape pods. "Just as I thought!" Shown there was a heading which read: If [an emergency escape pod is: discovered, promptly switch to recovery detail. Of the two lights, one

had headed of towards D11587 but another was closing in on Colony C11234. Heero left Katerina where she was and propelled the large work machine to where the escape capsule was heading.

“Escape capsule (in front of me), respond! Pull the reverse engine lever! If you pick up any more speed, I will not be able to rescue you!”

There was no reply. At first, he thought it might be unmanned, but he felt an obvious intent [of the occupant] to get off course. Heero made the large work machine speed up, launched the rescue wire, hooked the escape capsule’s propulsion unit, and decreased speed, using the last of his (propulsion fluid). Then from the astrosuit’s wireless commlink, he heard a weak voice.

“.....please let me go.....” Heero thought he’d heard a similar female’s voice. “.....won’t you release me.....I want to die.....”

Heero shouted, “You want to die? Don’t screw around!” For the youth, it was an act that was truly inefficient and made him expend energy unnecessarily. “[If you didn’t want to get rescued, t]hen you shouldn’t have used the escape pod, should you have!” Opening the hatch of the large work suit, he followed [along] the wire and clung to the escape capsule. But in doing so, the battery pack of [his] astrosuit got damaged and made his wireless communicator unusable. “I don’t know what you were doing but you will not die!” Heero continued yelling without realizing his commlink was disconnected [i.e. dead]. “The majesty/dignity of the human existence is not allowed to kill itself, either by killing or being killed! 248/2/9-11” He grabbed the escape capsule’s outer lock release lever. “Since you used the astrosuit’s commlink, you’re wearing a helmet, right?” Naturally, there was no reply. Heero steeled himself and released the lock. Inside there was a female victim. He checked that she was wearing an astrosuit and was relieved. And then, he found the reverse engine lever on the console and pulled it hard. Somehow, the escape capsule lost speed and came to a stop. However, the face plates of [their] helmets were in mirror mode and so they could not see one another.

“Are you alright? Can you stand? What the hell happened?” Heero asked many things, but there was absolutely no reply. At this time, he finally realized his battery pack was damaged. That was dangerous. His air would run out in a few minutes. In a flurry, Heero returned to the large work suit and went to replace [the battery] with a spare pack. While he did this, he made the victim stand as she’s not appeared to have lost consciousness, took firm hold of her hand and took her back to the large work suit. Of course, that female victim was Sabrina.

\*

Sabrina thought it was strange. She didn’t understand why this person had gone out of their way save her suddenly reticent self. That was when she heard an auditory hallucination. It was a voice that sounded very much like her own.

“Sensei, are you alright? Answer me already!” That was Katrina’s voice, but there was no way Sabrina could have known that. She heard a tapping in her helmet. She heard the modulation of the unique sound wave 249/1/7-8, was it matching frequencies or playing with the volume? During the modulation, she heard a second sound that was very similar to Sam’s mewl, the cat she had left of Earth.

“Sam.....” Tears moistened Sabrina’s eyes. Her closed heart burst like a dam, overflowing [with tears] “.....I want to see Sam.....” She remembered the Earth with its beautiful greens, clear blue skies, and pretty rainbows—she didn’t want to die yet. She couldn’t die until she’d seen her cute Sam again. She had to thank her savior. “Thank you very much.....!” She thought it would be rude not to introduce herself, “I am Sabrina Peacecraft.....and you are?” Slowly, she extended her hand to the person who had rescued her.

\*

Katerina, who had listened on the commlink, was surprised all the same.

“Sabrina? Peacecraft?!” She was the elder sister [Katrina] had never met, but the name, at least, she knew.

To Be Continued.....

#1 – In the raw text, the kanji read “family” and the furigana (which is the little superscript that tells people how to read either less-frequently used kanji and/or how to read kanji if the pronunciation isn’t what’s typically used) reads “Maganac.” I think it’s more significant that he used family kanji to say “maganac” (and there is absolutely NO WAY the characters for family could ever be mangled into being read “maganac,” it’s just Sumizawa equating two words of entirely dissimilar pronunciations but, in this situation, probably identical meaning (to Katrine, at least)

#2 – for whatever reason, Sumizawa does not write “mobile dolls” in the phonetic transliteration “mobiiru douru” but with kanji that quite obviously means “mobile doll.” There was no furigana pronunciation guide... I’m not sure what this is supposed to signify, if anything but I noticed it in translating and thought I’d mention it here (as the transliteration IS used elsewhere)

#3 – This is a transliteration of the English “feedback.” Yet it does not fit in this sentence (kind of how the transliteration of “tension” is “super happy” to Japanese people), but it’s not in the dictionary so I decide to keep it in there. He seems to mean the mobile dolls have data stores that would have to be in a remote location to have avoided the effects of the nano-defenders and that can be used to kind of reboot the Maganacs with minimal data loss.

#4 – I believe this is the same as the Neuenheim Konzern, however, in previous chapters, the whole name was transliterated. Here, the Neuenheim is the same, but the Japanese convention of adding the kanji “sha” (which means company) was used. The only explanation for this difference, aside from stylistically wanting to avoid over-using the same word (which wouldn’t be a problem since it’s been a while since we read anything about this company) is so the Japanese audience can see, at a glance, that this Neuenheim thing is the company not the eponymous man (and “konzern” isn’t something I’ve ever run across in my forays into non-FT reading so...)

#5 – If this is a reference to the Wizard of Oz, that’s cool because apparently, this phrase is also a regular part of the Japanese vernacular (now, perhaps it was adopted after the movie came out but if not, then it’s a fabulous case of independent creation that dovetails spectacularly).

#6 – I find it odd that this sentence follows the typical Japanese convention of not distinguishing between plurals and singular nouns (although there are ways to specifically note plurals, especially easily done with people by adding “tachi” or “ra” to the end of the word). This drives me nuts in technical descriptions as I can never be sure if there’s ONE gun turret or TWO. However, I think it’d odd that we spend the rest of the chapter discussing the Cinq Royalty and Sumizawa does NOT make a clear reference to the TWIN daughters of the royal house of Cinq, despite telling us there are TWO in the very next line... I’ll bet it means one of the bought the farm :PPP

#7 – First, the stupid cat’s stupid name. Transliterate “Somewhere” into Japanese and you end up with “sa-mu-u-e-a” and five syllables is INSANELY LONG for Japanese people, so they LOVE to shorten stuff. So “sa-mu-u-e-a” gets shortened to “sa-mu” and that is the same way the name “Sam” would be katakana-ized. So it makes PERFECT sense in Japanese to connect “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” to Sam the piano man in “Casablanca.” And I googled the phrase, watched the youtube clip and it IS “Play it once, Sam” not “Play it again, Sam.” And, if you didn’t know (as I didn’t) “As Time Goes By” is the song that Sam plays in Casablanca. Sam in Casablanca is not, however, a cat.

#7.5 - Well, the Japanese is right there if you want to cut and paste and take your chances. I am not super familiar with how classical pieces are named, but the Chopin I looked up seemed to be typically divided into numbered opuses first followed by another number. I’m going with a straight translation of the Japanese, but I’m not sure if that’s the particular song Sumizawa was thinking of.

#8 – We all know “sensei” right? I just find it hard to translate calling someone “sensei” in this situation because “sir”



seems too stiff for Katerina and “teacher” or “tutor” sounds dumb as no one calls their teacher “TEACHER!” unless they have forgotten their teacher’s name. So, I’m sticking with “sensei.”

#8.5 - As in Socrates, "I only know that I know nothing"

#9 – Haha, I think it’s funny that the first entry for this particular word “customs” is actually “sex services.” I doubt, however, that they would be having discussions about that... although....

#9.5 - literally, this is "man woman between" and other uses I found pertained to things like "pay discrepancy between men and women." However, given the tone of this passage, I am interpreting this to mean "romantic."

#10 - I believe an LJ reader commented that there is a Weyridge in the original animated series and he says “Katrina.” I am only left to wonder why this might be since he is clearly helping Sabrina, not Katrina, here. Foreshadowing, perhaps?

# [translation] Frozen Teardrop, Nocturne of Sorrow I



inchoate-oeuvre.livejournal.com/8720.html



Nocturne of Sorrow I

Peacecraft File 2

AC 145 WINTER

The explosion of the Earth delegation shuttle in the vicinity of the L-1 colony cluster was finally announced as an act of terrorist by colonial extremists. The sole survivor, Duke Cinquant Khushrenada, expressed his feelings [by stating], "I think it is regrettable that the path to peaceful coexistence between Earth and the colonies comes to an end," and the Earth Sphere United Alliance Army added that [it] ought to be stationed in the colonies [ALT: and CINQUANT added that the ESUAA ought to be stationed in the colonies #0]. Regarding Sabrina Peacecraft, who was supposed to have been the other survivor, she was reported by the mass media as having died with the other passengers. Since then, no, since before then, history was full of ostentation and deception. Everything was handled with a (sort of) white washed interpretation [of events] that was favorable to the authorities. The colonies and Earth had decided that the AC 145 [shuttle] incident was the start of the antagonism [between them], but in fact this beginning is a fabrication through and through. On the one side, the rebels and United Alliance Army's deadlock in the Norther European kingdom of Cinq continued. The skirmishes at the (very) front lines were (see-sawing) one step forward and one step back; and despite the ocean blockade in [Cinq's] territorial waters that had been [in effect] for nearly half a year, [neither side] was able to make the decisive blow. Here a "buzzword" appeared. Though it truly was a momentary fad, it was (a word that was) exactly like it was the "truth" [ALT: it was a word that was taken at face value as being the truth]. Throughout history, these kinds of frequently appearing "buzzwords" often lead the masses off in the wrong direction. In the AC era, it was this [phrase]:

## *Early conclusion*

In truth, this was ceased-thinking conclusionism and simple logic. Of course, an urgent situation that is getting worse must quickly be ended. However, as the situation was at a standstill, it was not necessary to arrive at an immediate conclusion [at the expense of one] that would allow for a gentle, good change to occur. Speaking more concretely-

"Because people will naturally die as long as the war continues, and where a number of victims is unavoidable, it is better to use a WMD (lit: large scale weapon) and wipe out the rebel forces once and for all."

-is one mode of thinking. This loses sight of the real issue. At the same time, the people were under the impression that they had thought up the words themselves. [Because of that buzzword], there was a tendency to value an 'end' to the war over the 'life' of a person. Mass media, which caters to public opinion, also backed the irresponsible 'early conclusion.' The United Alliance Army executives decided to launch a nuclear warhead (limited area dispute use that is in the satellite orbit 216/3/4-6).

"Set the launch for midnight on November 27th [#1], colony standard time." That was, of course, an order of the utmost top-secret importance. All the people were being lead around by their noses with superstitious sounding 'catch phrases' like 'it will be easier once it's over' without careful deliberation; they don't notice that they themselves are accomplices. Spreading thoughts of conventional conclusion didn't spread out 216/3/11-12. All they could do was move forward. They had lost the power to imagine. Humans who have lost their imagination can find value only in results. One may sympathize with this state of mind. And that is a terribly deep sin.

Sabrina was taken in by the Darlians. However, the Darlians were [no longer] affluent but had mortgaged their luxurious home and spacious grounds and were poised to relinquish them in few months' time. Because their own country had been taken over by the rebels, the Earth Sphere United Alliance was imposing a heavy tax upon them. Moreover, the colonies' middle classes gave official notice of 'wealth redistribution.' For the upper classes, [they, the middle classes] commenced the dismantling of the upper classes' 'vested interests.' The ever-magnanimous Darlians accepted all these demands and chose to relinquish their fortune. A sharp decline began. [Katerina] had to give up the (early morning) horseback riding and space walks. She even gave up her adored horse. Without the means to employ a tutor, it was decided that Heero Yuy would be discharged at the end of the month. For Katerina, that was the one thing she didn't want. Heero, however, consented. As he hadn't ever really done any tutoring, he had felt guilty about receiving the monthly reparation (lit: salary). When the seed in Katerina's heart sprouted with sadness, it probably had not yet been foreseen that this feeling would become 'love' in due time . It was Sabrina who breathed very different air from the Darlians [family] 217/1/4-5<. At this time, she closed her heart and did nothing but play the piano. She continually played Chopin's Revolutionary [#2]. Or she chose the difficult "mazurka" [#3]. These songs' senses of speed could not be expressed if they were not played from memory [thus allowing] one [to focus] on the keyboard. But they were excessively elaborate and short in emotion. It is believed that Sabrina definitely seemed to want to forget. Her country, her parents, the people who had perished in the shuttle explosion, and now, even herself; [she was] now a nobody. Yet the more she concentrated on the song, the more the faces of the people she'd lost came back to haunt her. She fell into a spiral of loss and the gap between herself and her surroundings widened. As a result, she became unable to concentrate on anything other than the songs and while the vicious circle continued without end, she continued beating the abysally depressed keys [ALT: she continued to be the keys in her abyssal depression [adjectival order] 217/2/12-13<].

Then, unexpectedly, she heard a voice speaking at her ear. If she focused too much on things, she would fall into an certain type of a state of trance 217/2/10-11. Despite the mezzo forte of the piano, she could hear the discussion of her littler sister Katerina and the tutor Heero Yuy in the neighboring room. Their voices seemed to have a certain anxiousness and reluctance in their soon-to-end relationship. It was a heated, lively discussion.

"Emmanuel Kant isn't saying 'one cannot lie' 'for the sake of eternal peace.'"

"Kant is saying that the foundation of moral metaphysics is: 'one must not tell lies whatever the circumstances.' So it stands to reason that it would be under that heading. For peace, 'sublime goals' and 'obligatory motive' are necessary and without that, if (decorating with falsehoods) isn't permissible, then bloody battle is also negated and peace that came of it will have no value."

Sabrina stopped playing, and she faced the adjoining room, drawing closer,

"Please tell me what you mean, in detail," Sabrina posed the question from the doorway. "I can accept that 'peace' is morally correct. Ergo, isn't it more important that 'peace' be achieved, regardless of the 'means'?"

"You're saying that peace achieved by military intervention is also just, yes?"

"Yes....."

"Come in....." said Heero, "you're wrong." Heero had two students for his final class. [#3.5]

"I am wrong!" Tears flooded Sabrina's eyes. "Isn't it obvious that [I am? you are?]wrong?" She went sobbing to Heero's arms. Heero was perplexed, hit as he was by Sabrina's flood of emotion. "I want to see Sam..... I want to see Sam!"

"Sam.....?"

Sabrina's emotional support was the cat Sam who she had left on Earth. Katerina was likely sympathetic to her older sister's state. But sure enough, seeing her snuggled against Heero and in tears unmistakably disquieted her heart. Katerina's expression was different from usual. Gone was the carefree cheek, it was replaced with dark jealous/envy.

*Even though we have the same face, Sabrina is an angel from Earth.....I'm the lost child that was thrown away in space.*

That may have been the second when she realized the happiness which she had enjoyed was [actually] a 'hard life' that was [only] called 'freedom.'

\*

Sabrina and Katerina were, on the surface, close sisters, but it was (perhaps) enmity neither one wanted to acknowledge that ran through their hearts. One might even call it an abhorrence of their closest relation. The two of them did not share a bedroom as if that were the most natural thing [#3.75]. Nevertheless, since their rooms were next to each other, it was possible for one to pay a visit to the other. That, however, had not yet happened even once. The siblings never spent the night talking, or shared their feelings or comforted one another. Undoubtedly any words they exchanged were empty ones. Worry for their country or thoughts of their father and mother (probably) only brought sighs and it was (probably) impossible to fill the deep gulf that had been dug between them. However, Katerina had been taught by Heero Yuy. If humans were intended to discover what it means to 'live,' each individual's thoughts were important and there was no particular need to limit it to history or place or environment. Setting aside the fact that her (older) twin sister--who was this young woman named Sabrina?--Katerina screwed up the courage to go and pay a visit to Sabrina's room.

"Sabrina, I want to talk to you!" Her graceful (older) sister looked at her blankly. "What is your dream? What do you want to be when you grow up?" The value of a human living--Now is the time to discuss what we think of the future.--she recalled hearing that from Heero Yuy. Sabrina, however, shook her head.

"--I'm already dead [#4]."

Katerina argued without hiding her irritation, "You mean historically? You're breathing and crying and capable of love, aren't you?"

"What about you, Katerina?"

"Huh?"

"What do you want to be?"

Katerina answered the very next second, "An astronaut! I want to explore space!"

".....but you're a girl."

"So what?!"

"What if that's impossible?" Sabrina's point was calmly made. Considering the actual state of affairs at the Darlians, they couldn't spend money freely [#5]. An astronaut, to become one would require a higher education with a huge price tag. It was only for civilians who joined the Earth Sphere United Alliance who were mostly exempt from paying those expenses. Katerina didn't want to enlist. She decided to select a different future employ. "Maybe a teacher at school.....with my school record, though, that might be impossible."

"No, it's not!" Sabrina encouraged her with a smile. "You can talk about such difficult [issues] with Heero-sensei." Once she said that, she tried talking about her own dreams for the future. "I also want to teach--the piano to children,

I'd like to have a quiet life."

"You could do that, couldn't you?! Since you're not a princess anymore."

"Y-yes.....that's right." For most girls, they're pleased to be [just] 'a girl.' And [Sabrina] was always at war with that feeling 219/1/8.

"Sabrina, I'm beginning to see you in a new light."

"Katerina, you're a better sister than I imagined." They looked into each others eyes and decided to always trust one another there after.

\*

Heero went to his college for the first time in a long while. More than six months had passed since he had handed in his leave of absence form. Heero went to visit his friend Jay Null.

"Heero Yuy, good to see you." That underground lab was an eerie place. On the numerous, old-fashioned blackboards there were several illegible numerical formulae written, a stag's head that was a throwback to bygone days decorated the wall, and on the (plank surface) below it were a miscellany of notes posted without any space to spare between them; the heaps of books, files, datachips [and what not] lay scattered as a result of an avalanche [their own great number] had caused; there wasn't even space to walk in. The oddest thing was that [no one] had the foggiest idea what this man's specialty/major was or what he was researching.

"The next meeting is the day after tomorrow.....everyone is welcome."

"That's not why I came here today."

"What a shame."

Heero had heard all manner of bad rumors about this man. [For example] that he was a vastly wealthy man because of the several fusion reactor patents he owned but was evading taxes and irrespective of that, he was providing his own research expenses by (cracking [#6]); or he was hogging the school's latest materials and apparently constructing something; or that he was so brilliant, the underground organization also saw him as a threat. Heero, however, wasn't very interested in any of those categories of gossip.

"What are you researching now?"

"Developing a new life form--I'm using silicon instead of carbon [#6.5].....it's, uh, actually a simple experiment." No sooner had he said that than there was a small explosion. "Cripes! Come on! Another failure? Crap!"

Clearing his throat, Heero held up a small plastic bag in which there was some/a cat hair.

"Actually, I wanted you to clone a cat from this fur."

As he patted out the fire burning on the desk, Jay said, "Oh, okay.....put it over there somewhere.....I'll bring it with me the day after tomorrow."

"You will? Thanks."

"Leave it to me, there's nothing I can't do."

\*

Afternoon, two days later--

Jay brought a seventeen meter large-scale trailer loaded with what seemed to be a white-painted aircraft to the Darlian residence. It resembled a winged dragon with two heads.

"Buck up, Heero.....for I have brought you the cat."

"What is this?"

"Once you see it, you'll see it's {Wyvern}."

"I asked for a Norwegian forest cat. The young lady here isn't hoping for a two-headed flying dragon monster."

"Well, I am appalled at your lack of common sense."

"I don't want to be told that by you."

"Listen, all you brought me was a single cat hair. Probably one from the lady's skirt--"

"That's correct."

"If it had had the root attached, it'd be different, but to (read) DNA data without any somatic cells would take a hell of a long time. It wouldn't be possible (to do it) in just two days."

"You can't do it, then?"

"Didn't I tell you--there's nothing I can't do." Jay was smiling boastfully, "I applied a little artificial intelligence."

"Artificial intelligence?"

{Wyvern} was taken to the backyard. It would be close to Sabrina's and Katerina's rooms there.

"Originally, this {Wyvern} needed a servomechanism to make solo flight possible. This machine had to be freed from the instructions of the pilot, ground crew, and controller and from exact flight plans and all that. And I made it such that the system makes the machine land safely in any location, under any circumstances, the {ULS} [#7] is done by AI ((artificial intelligence))."

Heero was impressed with what Jay had said.

"I didn't know you were so well versed in that field."

"It pains me to say it, but my teammate Thomas Quarant programmed it." A small, pale man in round glasses came out of the trailer. He looked up timidly at Heero from the bottom of his glasses.

"I am Thomas Quarant. I am developing the first program that expanded the genetic algorithm using quantum computers 221/1/5-7. If I'm allowed to study with this, I can complete the artificial intelligence that can 'immediately judge the environmental situation and quickly calculate-disposal'--the {Zero system}."

"I don't believe such a fantastical system is necessary for just one cat."

"Heero, Heero, Heero.....Quarant, did you connect the artificial intelligence to this computer?"

"It's already done."

"Well, let's hurry up and turn it on."

The machine called {Wyvern} bore a strong resemblance to the mobile armor form of the future {Gundam Epyon}. Near the end of AC 195, Doctor J was being held prisoner upon the White Fang's battleship Libre, but he learned of



the existence of {Gundam Epyon} which had destroyed the Bulge Fortress. He had seen Treize's blueprints with his own eyes and among the (efficiency), he had some (beliefs/thoughts) about the transformative flight ability [Treize] called {mobile armor}.

*"Whaaat, so this isn't Wyvern," he had seemed unable to prevent the nostalgia from seeping out into his voice. "Taking the lead from my bird mode, thinking of a design that makes a Gundam transform into a Wyvern is laudable..... however, the name mobile armor is a bit....." When he spoke of just how unfortunate that sole point was, he eyed the technical officer. "Did that Treize Khushrenada design this?" Doctor J tacked a "what a boorish name" at the very end.*

But that is a terrible digression.

The two young students entered Sabrina's room and into that terminal unit they entered the cat data.

"The basic data of a Norwegian forest cat is in. Now, you have to input the cat's characteristics."

"What? But....." Sabrina was at a loss. Quarant asked questions as he nimbly typed upon the keyboard.

"What is the cat's name?"

"'Somewhere'....."

Jay was delighted, "Oh, that's a good name! Wouldn't that be a better name for this sytem than 'ZERO'?"

"But I call him 'Sam'."

"Oh," Jay said, loosing heart as he showed Quarant a photo of Sam and had him trace it in the monitor. And [Sam] meowed to Sabrina.

"Actually, we know quite a bit about you, my lady."

"Huh?"

"What, didn't you always come out to the outer wall construction site? We worked part time out there!"

"I loved those homemade cookies."

".....those [were made by] my younger sister, Katerina."

"Is that so?"

"....." No matter what, the conversation didn't pick up.

"Well, I suppose there's no help for mixing the two of you up since you're twins and all," said Jay with false cheeriness.

"Yes, yes."

Afterwards, Quarant asked Sabrina detailed questions and (repeated) the fine tuning. He spoke after hitting the enter key for the last time, "Okay, finished. Please try (corresponding) with 'Sam' as you did before.....I'm positive the (learning fuction) will run immediately and he'll come to behave just like your 'Sam'." Sabrina called "Sam" and the 'Sam' in the monitor answered with a 'meow.' The voice and expression was just like the Sam who was still on Earth.

"I missed you, Sam."

"Meow, meow."

Seeing Sabrina like that made Heero and Katerina skeptical that it really was okay [to have made a digicat / #8].

"Isn't this the same as those pet-raising [simulation] games from long ago?" Sabrina asked naively.

"Absolutely not! This Sam has actual emotions!" Quarant vehemently denied [her statement]. He went on and on, speaking in [scientific] jargon but to summarize: intelligent beings passed vaguely synthetic judgement with regards to their targets/objects 222/2/1-4. For example, imagine you are in a coffee house and you notice an elderly patron who you sense is irritate--[the synthetic judgement is] understanding how one feels this. One might understand from the position of his eyebrows or the [direction?] of his gaze or the expression on his face but not to what extent. The number of wrinkles in the paper that he's holding, the clatter of the cups, the oddly rough nose breathing, the inability to feel at home for all the excessive movement, or the sensitive response to each and every buzz in the air around-- isn't that taking in the signs created by the whole body? 222/2/15-19 Until now, computers have diagnosed things like pulse, blood pressure, and (the numerical value of palpitations), but they hadn't come to the point where they could understand the mental state of an irritated old man. Conversely, [apply this] to an unsettled, lonely young lady. Healing that girl's heart won't take kind words, it is enough [to say], 'I'll simply be with you,' but if a computer doesn't understand feeling 'lonely' or 'anxiety,' the action is a superficial thing and lacks feeling. Apart from instinct, dogs and cats (judge) all the various trifling/trivial behaviors of humans and come snuggling up or take to someone. For that to happen [though], a certain degree of (experience) is necessary and by the same logic/reason/argument, a newborn puppy or kitten could not respond in this fashion. One had to make [the] vague and uncertain [human] feelings understandable in order to allow a computer to have feelings, but that required enormous volumes of information and communication in addition to experience and time. That was what Quarant spoke passionately about.

--[To] introduce feelings to your partner ((target))--

Just to do that, it was apparent that the (high speed calculation disposal equipment) of quantum class computers had to be developed/evolved. That said, Katerina and Heero only understood about half of that. Boisterous as usual, Jay put his arm around Quarant's shoulder and made to leave.

"See you later, Heero! That meeting tonight starts at nine in lecture hall three, you gotta come!"

"Y-yes.....(but) are you leaving that Wyvern here?"

"Leave it alone until [we/I] can make/get a substitute A.I.! It was getting tough to hide it at school anyway! Don't you think that bright idea kills two birds with one stone? Ka ka ka ka ka [#9]....." And then, Hurricane Jay and Brouhaha Quarant left.

"They probably really just wanted to get rid of that thing.....if the authorities [ever] found this, it'd be quite a fuss."

"I thought Sensei was [a little] strange, but your friends are even more so."

"Yes, that's about right."

Heero and Katerina let out a little sigh. To completely cover the giant, ominous machine with a sheet, they had no choice but to cancel their afternoon class.

\*

That night, for the first time in a long time, Sabrina decided to play Nocturne for the 'Sam' in the monitor. As she'd done before, she (tried) to say "play it once, Sam." Same gave a small "meow" and curled up. That little thing was just like the real Sam. So was the way he rolled over in his sleep during the song. Nocturne continued (forever). Sabrina's beloved peace of mind had returned. A quiet night descended. The song changed from Nocturne to Waltz No. 2. "Grand Valse Brillante." [#10] Heereo and Katerina, who were in the backyard and felt compelled to finish

covering {Wyvern} with the sheet, were fascinated by the waltz they heard [from the house]. Suddenly, Katerina faced Heero and with proper social manners said, "Sir, may I have this dance?" In living with Sabrina, she'd somehow picked up those pretty kinds of manners.

"In these situations, isn't the man supposed to do the asking?" Heero's wry/bitter smile was self conscious.

Laughing, Katerina answered, "Aw, [since] when did you ever think of me as a girl?"

"Since now."

--And tonight will be the last, won't it.

After this evening, Heero intended to quit being a tutor. He believed his connection to the underground activists Jay and Quarant would surely cause trouble for the Darlians. For the last night at least, it was (surely) alright to pretend to be someone else. Heero took Katerina's hand and danced elegantly. Under the star filled sky, their light steps passed on endlessly 223/2/8-9. Though [dancing] on the grass wasn't [easy].

"Someday, at a party, I'd like to dance with you."

"Did you want to embarrass me further?"

"No, Sensei.....for a stick in the mud (頭が固いワリ), your rhythm is smooth and gentle."

"You're good, too, for a tomboy." There was nothing as beautiful as those two [as they] danced against the lights of the Darlian residence.

"Thank you for helping Sabrina."

"It's only natural to assist a pupil in a difficult situation."

".....so will you help me, too?"

"You?"

"Yes.....I'm now in a lot of pain." After that were probably [going to be] words [of her] ("loving heart.") But the far off piano music had finished. And from the second story window, they heard Sabrina.

"Sensei, Katerina! I'm sorry I was having fun by myself! I'll come and help you!"

"It's alright, Sabrina.....we've already finished," Katerina said. An infinite moment cannot last forever.

Heero looked at his watch and said, "I have to get going. Can't break my promise to meet Jay."

"The assembly? The student movement?"

"I'm just going to put in an appearance." And just like that, he went off into the darkness of the night. He didn't say goodbye. They were certain to meet again--. Beside Katerina, who was always seeing Heero off, was Sabrina.

"Did Heero Sensei leave?"

"I'm--"

"Huh?"

Katerina raised her hand in the direction which Heero had disappeared.

"I'm Katerina Peacecraft.....and you are?"

Sabrina looked at her sister with wonder.

"What are you playing at?"

"It's okay.....(now) I'm in the same position as you, Sabrina." At this time, Katerina was clearly aware that she was in love. She was simply happy to love him, Heero.

\*

Hundreds of people had gathered in the college's underground lecture hall number three. Standing on a dais was a middle class man with an air of a true intellectual.

"Our colonies have been living under a monarchy that merely calls itself a democracy [#11]. Long have we been suffering with excessive taxes. Must we continue to labor just so that the people of Earth may live in peace and quiet? We, the people of the colonies, pay taxes more than fifteen percent higher than those living on Earth. What's more, most of those taxes are used for the military expenses of the Earth Sphere United Alliance Army! This is outrageous! There is absolutely no fighting here in space, why then must we pay war expenditures? That's not all! We citizens of space supply many of the (materials) and safe produce for the Earth is the status quo, so why are we so oppressed?"

Heero entered the hall in the middle of this speech. Jay took swift notice, beckoned 'over here!' and had [Heero] sit. Even [catching] only part of the speech, he knew the man's assertions were (freedom principle advocating/自由原理主義的な) libertarian [#12]. Naturally, he could predict what would come next.

"Now we ought to stand up! We are not a people who have been thrown away! We are the people who, of our own free will, choose to live in space! We have the right to live freely!" Just when the applause was about to start, someone in the front row raised his hand as he stood up.

"If I may? I am Cinquant Khushrenada, a member of the Romefeller Foundation on Earth." Those words threw the place into an uproar. It was shocking enough to have someone from Earth there, but he had some nerve to [wish to] express his opinion. And a small number of people in the hall recognized that he was the sole survivor of the shuttle that had just [recently] exploded. That [bit of information] was whispered around the room, an indescribable tension spread across the hall. Heero had seen that explosion with his own eyes.

"The other light that went in another direction [what his escape pod]....."

He hadn't asked the details [of the shuttle] from Sabrina. But the timing of it was [too] good and felt deliberate; he was dubious.

"Everything my esteemed counterpart [#13] has said is correct. But I have two or three particulars I want to question."

"G-go ahead."

"What is this 'freedom' you talk of? What is the 'right'? Do you intend to return this orderly world to lawlessness? If the law and taxation system are lost, your [own] livelihood and economy cannot keep going. Where upon 'freedom' will be lost. If the Earth didn't exist, you, my friends, who have rights, wouldn't [even] exist. Before insisting on 'rights,' I'd have you remember your debt to the earth. What would you have the mothers do when [it is time] they give birth? Independence is fine, to rise up is good. However, I'd like you to consider the things for which the Earth, as it exists now, are necessarily indispensable. That is to say, supporting the Earth has the [same] significance as supporting your [own] livelihoods."

Silence befell the hall. One person, only Heero Yuy, saw this scene as something to ridicule. Those were not questions or even refutations just now. It was nothing more than a one-sided telling of Earth's situation. That was how Heero analyzed it. Cinquant slowly climbed up the dais and presented a pistol and a short sword, [both?] embellished with gold and jewels, to the man who had been making a speech.

"It appears everyone already knows but, I am the one who, by rights, should have died in that shuttle explosion. If you, my good man, are wishing for bloodshed, by all means, start with me (lit: run me through). If your will is strong, it should be an extremely simple thing. My life along with the perishing of Earth! So, which shall it be, the sword or the gun?"

This gathering was for the sake of rising up, not a place for discussion. Much less the thoughts of shedding blood 226/1/12-14 [sentences seem contradictory].

"Would you mind knocking it off?" Heero Yuy stood up. "Not a one among us hopes for bloodshed! That doesn't depend on our resolve 226/1/19, it's because [I/we] wish for peace for the future of Earth and space!"

"And you are?"

"A student at this school who also does colony construction."

"And what of future peace? I'd like to hear your opinion."

"[Just] as the colonies need Earth, Earth needs the colonies. What we don't need is antagonism [or] (I believe) this hatred for one another.....if we can eliminate the unnecessary elements, our futures should see peace by themselves."

At the time, Heero's choice of words had become rather simplistic. (As expected,) the months spent with Katerina had (likely) changed him.

"In building a future for this grand Earth, there must be noble ideas [to serve] as the foundation stones. I want people to have more respect 226/2/7-8. We can obey you if [and only if] you treat us like humans. I'd have you remember that any and all humans are deserving of respect. If you rule Earth with justice, you ought to give us freedom. Just now, you asked, 'What is freedom?' The 'freedom' we want is a trifling thing. It's anybody being able to provide for their family. It's work being offered to any man. It's allowing those who desire so to continue along their scholarly path. Mankind dreams of a peaceful world where he may live in happiness. If this freedom will be secured, even we can accept the (legal order?) offered by Earth--" That probably wasn't the general will of the [people in the] hall. Freedom was, for a man, the absolute minimum right they would claim. It was an immature and naive idealistic theory but it touched many of the young people in the hall. "--And to complement this, would you please refrain from unfairly punishing guiltless people by arresting and imprisoning them?"

"What is your name?" Cinquant Khushrenada asked.

"I am Heero Yuy."

"I'll remember that....."

And then the meeting broke up then and there without any further apparent ado. Later, (this) Cinquant and Heero became Earth's and the colonies' representatives and while recognizing each other, would come to have a connection that was equally matched in antagonism as it was in cooperation.

\*

The ringing of an explosion was minutes after the [meeting at the] third lecture hall broke up. It had been caused by a timed bomb that had been set up by a special operative from the Earth Sphere United Alliance Army. The purpose

seemed to be to stamp out the underground activists. However, with the appearance of Cinquant Khushrenada, that timing was lost and it had been [set] to blow at an [ill-defined] time (lit: made/allowed to blow at a vague time). It resulted in [just] a few victims. But it wouldn't end with just a few. Heero Yuy, Thomas Quarant, and Jay Null were among those few. Jay lost his left arm, Heero suffered large burns to the back, and Thomas Quarant was gouged through the stomach.

"We were fools....." Quarant said with feeble breath.

"Heero, help me get Quarant.....if the authorities catch us, we'll be in a right fix."

"Y-yeah....." At this point in time, Heero was still in a state of shock (lit: stupefied). It might have been because of the ringing in his ears from the [sound of the] explosion. It might have been because he'd witnessed first hand [his] ideal get pulverized.

Quarant kept murmuring things meant to motivate [Heero/them], "An ideal is as an ideal does....." he laughed even as he coughed up a glob of blood, "I always knew it.....a peace without fighting....."

"Of course that ideal is impossible....." Jay railed. "Enough already, shut up!"

Quarant, however, continued to chatter, "Just a little more and 'P4' {PPPP{{Prototype Perfect Peace Program}}}} would have been finished.....that's too bad."

"That program is too dangerous. Better it be unfinished." They heard the footsteps of a corps of military police. They'd surely followed [them] due to the large quantities of blood stains.

"Sorry.....here is good....." said Quarant, somehow maintaining a distant consciousness. "Leave me here and go....." But the other two didn't obey. They'd elected to be arrested by the authorities just as [Quarant would be]. They believed forcibly taking Quarant any further would endanger his life. However, by the time the MP's emergency medic arrived, Thomas Quarant had already died from blood loss.

\*

Even the Darlians were notified about the [bombing] of lecture hall number three. Sabrina and Katerina were horrified. News programs disclosed the names of the arrested and displayed identification photos of the dead. 'Thomas Quarant' was among the casualties. And they saw 'Heero Yuy' and 'Jay Null' among the names of those arrested.

"That's.....!"

"How could they arrest them!"

A summary of the incident follows:

In the previously established battle for sovereignty, there was an intensification of the opposition to the underground activists who'd already been experiencing internal strife and ended in this bombing. It was reported that the culprits, like the shuttle bombing before, was an offense [committed] by the L-1 extremist group.

Sabrina intuitively knew that history was being [rewritten (lit: fabricated)]. Katerina knew better than anyone that there was no way Heero would do such a thing, but she had a feeling that from an ethical point of view, there would be no release from [his] tenacious character 227/2/2-1. Was there something they could do--? If they asked for an interview/meeting as the daughters of the house of Darlian, perhaps they could meet. However, considering the colonies' general animosity towards the upper class, that might have have the opposite effect. It was an endless cycle that ultimately left them without any brilliant ideas. At a time like this, they couldn't do anything. It was especially difficult for Katerina. Just as she'd discovered her love [for Heero], she was pained by being unable to see



the one she loved. Impatience and guilt. The cowardice of being unable to take any action and regret. Katerina's heart was greatly jolted by her irritation at how powerless she was [ALT: Her irritation at how powerless she was was quite a jolt to her heart.]. In a voice so quiet that Katerina wouldn't hear, Sabrina sang.

"Somewhere Over the Rainbow."

\*

For two weeks from the beginning of November, Heero Yuy was imprisoned for ideological/political crimes. It was already established that he was not the perpetrator of the bombing. However, regarding the MP's interrogation, because he constantly offered sound arguments, he had been branded as being defiant. Furthermore, there was no one to vouch for him. He could have used the Darlians' [good] name, but he hadn't. Even while he was being questioned, he didn't even mention (lit: talk about) his work as a tutor. He may have thought that would have inconvenienced Katerina and Sabrina. He also may have been concerned about the two-headed flying dragon concealed in their back yard. The burns on his back healed immediately. But he had yet to recover from [the shock] of Quarant's death.

One day, Heero was suddenly released. Meeting him was the site foreman of the colony construction's outer wall repair unit.

"I've been contacted by a gentleman called Duke Khushrenada.....told me to help you."

"Khushrenada?"

"He was also the one to post your bail. Make sure you thank him! Earth's nobility. I tell ya, they pull all kinds of crazy stunts." What Cinquant was thinking or why he went to such great lengths [for Heero] was a mystery. "While I'm on the subject, he also vouched for that brat, Jay."

\*

At the time, the Darlian household was preparing to move. Their new home was a cheap, downtown apartment that was somehow big enough for Mr. and Mrs. Darlian and (the sisters) Sabrina and Katereina. The majority of their household effects were auctioned and as for Wyvern in the backyard, even the people who'd come to appraise it couldn't understand its value and saw it as being on par with construction scrap. Katerina baked a big batch of her special cookies. When she couldn't do anything, she'd do the things she could. That had recently become her (daily routine), it became almost like faith to her. Several times, Sabrina offered to help, but Katerina stubbornly refused. Sabrina, who was at loose ends, sat before the computer monitor and lamented her parting with Sam.

"If you were the real Sam, I might have been able to take you with me.....I'm sorry."

"....." Sam was sadder than usual. He didn't even reply to her. He surely foresaw that he would be left behind and was rather pained by it, Sabrina thought. Katerina came up with some sample cookies.

"These might be my best cookies yet," and she smiled for the first time in a long time. But neither Sabrina nor Sam were in good spirits. "What's wrong?"

"Sam won't respond."

Katerina took a peek behind [her]. The Sam in the monitor appeared to be frightened of something. "Something is certainly off....." Sam's attention was continually [drawn to] the rear and his ears perked up and he turned around several times swishing his tail in large sweeps.

".....Whew.....!" Sometimes, he had an angry expression. With a sad face, Sabrina murmured, "I'm sure he must know he's going to be left behind, isn't he just terribly sad about it?"

"No, it's not that (level) [of sadness]." Katerina took Sabrina's seat and began working the computer. "Something's happening. Something big....."

\*

Jay and Heero entered the lab Quarant had used at college. They were thinking to organize the things he'd left behind. There was no comparing Jay's lab to Quarant's. Dozens of (large-scale) computers were lined up in an orderly manner; there was not a speck of dust on the floor.

"Well, well, well, all he's left behind is a single microchip with his research data saved on it."

What about these computers?"

"Belongs to the school, all of it.....there's nothing of Quarant's."

"And his family?"

"He had a little brother.....but he's supposed to be in high school."

"What's his name?"

"'Quinze' I think he said, but I haven't met him."

Heero remembered the face of a boy named Quinze, ".....could be him." Quinze was a slender student who, despite being physically inferior, would pick a fight with anyone only to end up done in by his own fighting words. It was more than half a year ago. One evening, he noticed a student crouching at the edge of the school yard and called out to him. Quinze was the student. He muttered a "don't mind me" [despite the fact that his] lip was cut, his cheek was swollen, and his eyes were full of tears. Even now, Heero could still distinctly remember how [Quinze] desperately resisted Heero's forcibly taking him to the nurse.

"I'll go give [?] that microchip [to him]. I used to be a part-time teacher [and I saw Quinze at the school I taught at]."

"Okay, I appreciate it." When Jay answered, he suddenly looked around and was excited. "The computers are running at full capacity! Meaning something big is happening....." Certainly, the temperature in the room was high. Heero undid a button at his collar.

"Isn't this a quantum computer?"

"The thing we incorporated in Wyvern was the first ever.....well shit!" Jay was annoyed.

"What?"

"Could you get on the keyboard for me! I'm just not used to my mechanical hand yet!" Jay's left hand was currently a prosthetic hand. Heero took Jay's place sitting before the monitor.

Jay spoke without hiding his impatience, "The password is 'PEACECRAFTx2HEEROYUY'."

"Why'd you give it a password like that?" When [the password] was entered, the monitor was teeming with an enormous volume of information.

"Th-this....." Jay's face got more and more pale.

\*

Katerina took in the situation desperately. Information was flooding in from over a wide network. And what she finally understood was that the Cinq Kingdom would be at the heart of an attack. The 'ZERO' system Quarant had

created was brilliant enough to predict the Alliance army's most top-secret [plans].

"What do you think we should do?" Sabrina was shuddering/trembling with worry and fear.

"....." Katerina wasn't able to answer immediately. But she had steeled herself for one thing. --At times when she couldn't do anything, she would do things she could do. She absolutely would not live a life of regret.-- Those words she ruminated time and again to herself. Just then, Heero's face appeared on the monitor. He'd contacted them via a communication link.

"Sensei, you've been released?"

"Yes, earlier this morning....."

"I'm glad." At least one of Sabrina and Katerina's worries was (annulled).

"More importantly, it seems something terrible will happen to your home town."

"We heard about it just now."

"If you're going to [try to] do something, earlier is better....." In a separate window, Jay's face popped up. "Destroy the attack military satellite.....[use] the Wyvern you've got there."

"I'll try doing it.....I'm on my way--"

"I really must refuse, Sensei," Katerina refused flatly. And she wanted to see what her current self's greatest achievable thing was. "Cinq Kingdom is our country. It's got no relation to you, Sensei." In the back of her mind, she recalled how, just a few weeks ago, she could do nothing to help Heero. She felt she would never think like that again.

"It was me who made the Wyvern! It's got to be me who flies it!" Shouted Jay from the monitor.

"That's correct.....but 'Sam' [has] (sided/become taken with) Sabrina and me." --Sabrina could not be a pilot. But it wasn't impossible for [Katerina]. Moreover, [Katerina] was the one who understood Sabrina's desire to help the Cinq Kingdom. --Katerina bet on her own greatest potential.

"You mean you'll fly Wyvern?"

"Yes," Katerina answered immediately. "My (operation) skill is far better than [Heero's]."

"Don't talk stupid! Don't put [Wyvern] in the same class as the (large) machines used for outer wall repairs!"

"If you think I'll give up because of a threat like that, you've got another thing coming."

"Huh?"

"When it comes to 'Sam' the quantum computer, I should be able to handle/operate it, too."

".....looks like you've read quite a bit."

Katerina began negotiating, "I've learned the basic manual! I think I'll be more reliable than Heero-sensei!"

"But" Jay didn't accept yet. Katerina knew she had no choice. She decided to pull out the big guns.

"I have the best cookies I've ever made in my life right here. You can have them all. There's a heap of them."

"Really.....in that case, I'll let you pilot."

"Thank you! That's why I like you, Jay!" She gave him a cute/sweet wink. During the conversation, the Heero on the monitor stayed silent. Frankly, he couldn't make an immediate decision/judgement. It was Sabrina who was first to step in to stop Katerina's rash behavior.

"You can't, Katerina! You can't be allowed to do something so dangerous!" But Katerina couldn't/wouldn't listen to what Sabrina had to say. [Katerina] promptly pulled out a large suitcase that had already been prepared [for the move]. From it, she removed her beloved astrosuit and changed right there in the hall then flew to the backyard.

Sabrina chased after her, yelling, "Why do you have to do this? What should I say to the Darlians?"

Katerina stopped where she stood and turned around, "Sabrina, we trust each other, right?"

"Y-yes.....of course."

"I'm going to give you the most important thing to you as a present.....so, I'll take your emotional support....."

"What do you mean?" Sabrina didn't understand [what her sister] meant.

"An exchange! 230/3/313<" Determination filled Katerina's eyes. "I'll take Sam! So don't let Heero-sensei go!"

"I don't understand.....what does that mean?"

Katerina removed the sheet and nimbly go into the cockpit. "Let's go, Sam!"

"Meow," answered the Sam in the monitor happily. The propulsion systems started up one after the other.

"Can I leave the (form control) to you Sam.....But the speed control is delicate, be extra careful."

"Roger!"

She took off at full throttle. Wyvern flew off at suicidal speed. Sabrina saw them off with a thousand emotions [in her heart]. Her little sister was on a journey [to save] the country that had rejected her. For all that they were twins, was it truly okay for her to accept such a cruel fate? At the time, Sabrina wouldn't register [what] the most important thing was that she'd received from Katerina. She didn't receive 'Heero Yuy.' She was entrusted with [Katerina's] 'love.'

\*

Leaving from the spaceport [#13] to space, the Wyvern headed to Earth. When she was allowed to research 231/1/11< by Sam, it became clear that the United Alliance Army had eight offensive military satellites in high orbit. Which one of them had nuclear warheads, which satellite would fire at the Cinq Kingdom, as unclear.

"Sam! Do you know which one?"

"Meow."

Words appeared on the monitor:

*It is not possible to predict launch time. Ergo, it's not possible to specify a more than 25% probability for each satellite.*

"Well, calculate a route [where I can] hit them all!"

"Meow."

Making snap decisions was a characteristic Katerina came by naturally. After she destroyed the eight attack satellites, if the Alliance Army asked for compensation for damages, it would be an astronomical sum. There was no

way Katerina could pay it herself, even if the Cinq Kingdom survived, it would be bankrupt.

"Never mind that! Now, I must protect Cinq!" But that alone wasn't the problem. But Sam asked questions one after the other: the attack method fuel supply, specifying the limits of Earth's gravitational field, etc. To each of those, Katerina calmly answered [Sam's questions]. As long as they were dealing with 'nuclear warheads,' there was no excusing a direct attack with means or missiles [due to the] pollution [that would contaminate] just outside of Earth's atmosphere. There was also no excusing an increase in unnecessary space debris.

"Isn't there some way to get them out of Earth's orbit?"

"Meow."

The answer was yes. It was possible to send the satellites into (graveyard orbit) which is outside the Earth sphere; to do this, the satellites would have to get off their original orbit. This could be done by manipulating the speed changes the satellites performed to [keep themselves in orbit]. [#13.5] The trouble was the attack satellites whose purpose was to destroy meteorites and large space debris. These satellites were double constructs consisting of an upper and lower part and came equipped with position stabilizing mechanisms that used high speed counter-revolution thrusters; in the event of an attack (from the outside) she could only assume that they would automatically take evasive action. She needn't consider the supply of propellant. She intended to get rid of all the satellites in a single orbit around Earth. When she was done, she would just storm through the atmosphere and land on Earth. However, the probability of being successful, while not zero, was close to being impossible. Her courage was taken down several notches.

"But it's not zero, right?"

"Meow."

Katerina was resigned/determined and ready to die, she plowed ahead to confront [her] despair. Just then, the commlink resounded with an incoming call.

*"This is Heero Yuy.....Wyvern, come in."* On the monitor appeared the face of the one whose encouragement she most wanted.

"Sensei!"

*"Jay was able to do the hacking. The launch will be midnight November 27th, colony standard time."*

"Thank you! That's all I need to pinpoint the [right] satellite!"

"Meow," Sam also voiced his gratitude.

*"There is something I want to ask." Heero's eyes were earnest. "Before, you said you were in pain."*

"Yes! Truly I was; I am now!"

*"Could you tell me what it is [that pains you]?"*

"That's a secret. But I'll tell you if this mission is a success."

*"Okay.....in that case, you come back alive."*

"Roger!"

"Meow, meow."

\*

The satellite Sam specified was named 'Gemina MW.' Currently, it was the farthest away, being located at the far side of the Earth. A time limit appeared on the monitor. It was the time the nuclear warhead would be launched. Even at top speed, the Wyvern's ETA was cutting it close. But it turned out that there was something even worse than that. That attack satellite was one of the duel construct ones.

*The most effective method of attack is to destroy the median axis connecting the upper and lower parts at close range.*

Katerina repeatedly thought over those words as they were displayed on the monitor. And by that method of attack, she confirmed that it was possible to keep it away from Earth's atmosphere, subtle timing was necessary. It was a method whereby she would approach and attack in an instant, even as Earth's powerful gravity was pulling at her from behind, and make the thrusters run flat out without destroying it. Her weapon of choice was the manipulator arm that came from [one of the heads/ #14] of the two-headed dragon. She would attack with the beam saber (attached to it). However, it would not be easy. If she cut it in two, it would fall to Earth. Masterful skill was required to neatly cut off just the rotational axis's magnet equilibrium system.

\*

The target, 'Gemina MW', was caught on the radar. Sam instantly released/scattered EMC [Electric Counter Measures] that would obstruct the remote operation [of the satellite]. But they had already exceeded the time limit. They could not cancel the launch now.

"That was also in the realm of expectations." Katerina focused on the (operation) of the manipulator. She started up the beam saber. "Take care of (the handling), Sam."

"Meow."

While going a roundabout way, Wyvern got into the inner orbit of 'Gemina MW.'

"Excellent! Now Cinq can be helped even in the worst case scenario!" If she became the missile's target, she would be the only one to die. But Katerina had no intention of dying. "There's still a ton of things I want to do!" Wyvern suddenly took on more speed. Katerina extended the (eyepiece) scope (from behind the seat) and got the magnetic equilibrium system of the 'Gemina MW' between the cross hairs. The missile launch barrel was just barely open. She could make out a little of the ominous warhead in the light that was reflecting off the Earth.

"Not on my watch 232/2/14<." She would absolutely send it off into space. She approached with even more painstaking care. By the effect of the ECM, the Wyvern's approach of the 'Gemina MW' went unnoticed. [They were as] close [as possible] and Katerina was fixed on the image [seen through] the (eyepiece) scope.

"....." She took a deep breath. And she sang a song in a quiet voice. "Somewhere Over the Rainbow." It was the song Judy Garland sang in that movie from long ago. As of recently, she'd been having Sabrina teach it to her. She'd said the song had given her a tiny bit of courage. It was an odd sensation. It was perhaps a trance-like state (in the midst of one's limits) 233/1/7. There was a force at work that far exceeded her own will, and with nimble accuracy, she made the manipulator move. Fine timing and masterful technique were demonstrated. It was a miraculous moment [ALT: It was the moment of truth]. The magnetic equilibrium system was carved out by the beam saber. Little flashes of light sparked out.

"Mission complete."

"Meow."

Katerina gave him a small smile. The next moment, attack satellite 'Gemina MW' detected the (scooped out)



magnetic equilibrium system 233/1/7< and made to take evasive action. But the thrusters ended up synchronizing in the same direction and sent it further and further away from Earth. 'Gemina MW' disappeared off into empty space without launching its nuclear warhead.

\*

Wyvern was slowly pulled in by Earth's gravity. She thought the faint G forces were pleasant; she said something to Sam that Sabrina used to often say.

"Play it once, Sam."

"Meow."

"Take the wave course to break into Earth's atmosphere."

"Meow."

"Let's head straight to Cinq and set her free!"

"Meow, meow!"

All at once, Wyvern was breaking into the atmosphere. The cockpit was filled with dazzling sunlight and under the harsh G forces, Katerina shouted loudly, "My name is Katerina Peacecraft! Second heir (in line in the Peacecraft family) to succeed to the Cinq Kingdom throne." Charging through the flash of light, the (white body of) Wyvern added still more light. "As of today, AC 145 November 27th, I declare war against the rebels who occupy [my] kingdom as well as proclaim the restoration of imperial rule [alt: the ruling house of Peacecraft]!"

To Be Continued..

#0 - haha, I'm not sure if it's Cinquant or the Army making this addition. I don't suppose it's super important, but it's probably Cinquant since he's the one speaking.

#1 - Well, a brief look at 11/27 yields nothing interesting in 20th century history in any century ending with a '45... which is disappointing and puzzling. There must be some significance to this date... and I was thinking along WWI or WWII lines, but the closest we get is, apparently, the armistice of WWI was signed on 11/11 and the only WWII thing I found were 1. the Royal navy going against the Regia Marina 2. the French navy scuttling ships to keep them out of Nazi hands, 3. an explosion at a British ammunition dump. I guess the first one is the most similar, but... reaching.

#2 - Opus 10 no. 12 seems to be the typical English notation?

#3 - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mazurka> it's just the KIND of song, not the title of any particular piece, according to wikipedia.

#3.5 Ugh, that attribution of "Heero said" comes BETWEEN the lines "Yes..." and "Come in" but it doesn't make SENSE for Heero to say "Yes" because, given the lack of politeness in the "You're saying it's okay to acquire peace through warfare" is OBVIOUSLY Heero. Why would this PAST TENSE attribution come BEFORE Heero actually says "Come in" and why would there be an entirely new line of dialogue for that "yes" line? Unless Katerina is throwing in some speech, too? \*fumes\*

#3.75 - again, I point out in Japan (and probably many other places), it's not uncommon for whole FAMILIES to sleep together in the same room (each with their own futon). I've know families with elementary aged children to share the same room for sleeping. This could just be Sumizawa assuming everyone does things like they are done in Japan, OR it could be Sumizawa trying to allude to who "un-twin-like" the girls are.

#4 - literally, this says "I'm already not living" but since that sounds hokey, "I'm already dead."

#5 - I suppose in a normal situation, the royal family would give the Darlians a stipend to the Darlians for raising their own daughter. I'm not sure, nothing about who's paying for her upkeep was mentioned until now... and I suppose it makes sense the Darlians necessarily must accept financial responsibility for her as Katerina's own country is kind of kaput... but still...

#6 - according to the Japanese dictionaries, the difference between "cracking" and "hacking" seems to be that the former is done with malicious intent. I guess that means to imply the rumor was that Jay was illegally accessing back accounts and stealing money.

#6.5 - This is purely ME talking in this note. You know, I've asked at least someone like my old high school chemistry teacher or some science-type person about alien life forms and all that jazz and I was told something to the effect that only carbon-based systems can support life. But that seems very egocentric to me. Carbon based systems work well for HUMANS on EARTH, but why the hell couldn't life evolve in an entirely different set of circumstances where it's be, I don't know, carbon dioxide or something would be like air to them and hydrochloric acid would be their water? I mean, fuck, if we're going to contemplate alien life, why the hell limit ourselves to the pattern of \*human\* evolution.

In fact, now that I'm on this soapbox, isn't that "carbon is the only basis of life" the antithesis of the scientific method, give we have but one paltry example of life supported on a carbon-based system (that is to say: earth). Kind of seems like a classic case of not being able to see the forest for the trees (by the same token, synthesizing a non-carbon-based lifeform in a carbon-based system seems like trying to turn water to wine, but...what to I know?)

/soapboxing.

#7 - Oh, that landing gear gets summed up on the very pointed Japanese phrase "Shuui joukyou handan nouryoku" which is literally "surrounding condition judgement ability" but how WONKY IS THAT?! So, I'm going to go with "Universal Landing System" or {ULS} for short.

#8 - well, for all intents and purposes... this is a digital cat. There seems to be nothing outside the computer(s) that could serve as 'Sam'.

#9 - this is the sound of Jay's laugh... I guess it's kind of a cackle.

#10 - well, first the song is called Waltz No. 2 then given the name Karei na enbutai kyoku which apparently is the same of Grand Waltz No. 1 based on my internetting.

#11 - haha! I don't know if he means JUST L-1 or ALL the colonies since Japanese doesn't typically distinguish between single and plural nouns (also: there is no subject verb agreement!). BUT since the convention seems to be that the original Heero Yuy fought for ALL the colonies and the Gundam pilots did also, I'm going to assume this bloke is talking about ALL the colonies getting shafted.

#12 - What the difference is between "freedom principle advocating" and "libertarian" or more precisely, why "freedom principle advocating" is used to describe libertarian is beyond me... in ENGLISH, the seem to be one in the same, but I couldn't find the "freedom principle advocating" thing in a dictionary and the closest thing to "libertarian" was "libertarianism."

#13 - I think that's just as crazy as you do... if there's so much animosity towards the upper classes on the colony, why in the world would they let a teenage rich girl in an undocumented, homemade space machine anywhere near the spaceport, let alone take off...

#13.5 - ORIGINAL translation (from which I TOTALLY reworded it in hopes of having it make more sense): The

answer was that it was possible to send them into (graveyard orbit) outside the Earth sphere by getting the satellites off orbit using the speed changes [that occurred in the satellites] as they used posture control to spin [themselves].

#14 - annoying that "neck" and "head" are often referred to with the same word in Japanese: KUBI. I haven't seen a picture of Wyvern, so I'm not sure if they mean the arm is coming from the neck or the head (for those of you studying at home: yeah, I'll bet the dictionary says head = atama, neck = kubi. HOWEVER, consider: Nearly Headless Nick in Japanese is "hotondo kubi-nashi nikku" and the headless horseman from the Ichabod Crane story is "kubi-nashi kishi." Seems they refer to your physical head as being kubi, at least in literary works. The contents of said haid (i.e. brains) seems to be "atama")

# [translation] Frozen Teardrop, Nocturne of Sorrow II

 [inchoate-ouvre.livejournal.com/9122.html](http://inchoate-ouvre.livejournal.com/9122.html)

Peacecraft File 3

--AC-145 December--

A legend was about to begin.

When Katerina Peacecraft reentered Earth's atmosphere aboard Wyvern--

"Lightning Queen"

--the young lady and (her beloved) machine were later called, she certainly did make a sublime appearance as the white-silver double headed dragon descended from the heavens, gleaming brilliantly.

However, neither Katerina nor Wyvern took immediate action. November passed in silence. As for the rebel side, there was nothing they could do about the ominous silence. During the first three days of December [the rebels] regarded Katerina's proclamation of war as a frivolity. *Whatever appearance of the Peacecraft heir could portend was of no consequence*, that was the prevailing mood [among the rebels]. It was unthinkable that one person alone would attack them. That is what the rebel leaders believed. Naturally, if the enemy-searching radar had not picked up anything, [they were safe] and they heard no word (lit: rumors) of any large corps on the move. But from a secret agent who'd infiltrated the inner circles of the Earth Sphere United Alliance Army, they'd had some surprising news.

*"To bring about an early conclusion, the Alliance Army is headed for Cinq Kingdom in Northern Europe, they attempted to launch a nuclear warhead missile [from] a military satellite but a lone, unidentified space fighter appeared and destroyed that plan,"* the informant said. Furthermore, *"I, myself, was not made aware of the existence of that fighter but the information net is shocked. and it was able to sense beforehand that the rebels maintained a secret weapon and that the Alliance Army [planned] a nuclear attack. All this is generally recognized by the tops of the Secret Agency, but in future, I think I want to give up that name,"* [he] added.

The leaders of the rebels, upon receiving this report from their most trusted man, were shaken. The Alliance Army plunging into use of nuclear weapons was, of course, astonishing. Yet more worrisome was the fact that a single space fighter--to which they had not the least connection--had thwarted [the Alliance's plans to nuke Cinq].

"What if..." all the rebel leaders were surely wondering, "that was a serious proclamation of war?" That wasn't all. The fighter that had removed the Alliance's "nuke" may have retained [the bomb].

"No, that's inconceivable, right?" (counseled) Lieutenant Martix [#1] Rex, the young staff officer aide aboard the rebel fleet's flagship Robin Hood. "The Alliance we can handle, but I really can't believe the young (maiden) of the Cinq Kingdom would drop a (ruinous) nuke on her own country."

"It's feasible that a kid that age could go on a suicide bombing mission! If we're going to come up with countermeasures, we have to assume [she] will try anything! Butt the hell out, brat!" Said the senior officer of the Joint Chiefs of Staff with irritation. In the end, [Martix] muttered a rough reply along the lines of "I beg your pardon," and returned to his room. In his room, he was hiding a mutt (lit: mix puppy) that he'd picked up in town. From it's right eye to its nose, it had spots arranged like an upside down spade and so he named [the dog] "Spade." Martix often voiced his complaints to the puppy.

"Really, they can all go get stuffed." It was lucky that Spade was silent, he neither barked nor (purred). "Spade, what



a situation." If [Katerina Peacecraft] were prepared to self destruct in a suicide attack as the senior officer said, was it necessary for her to declare war? That point ought to be considered. Even if [she had] been running wild--a mistake of youth--it was unclear why she'd not yet attacked. If she really did have 'nukes,' it would have been better to have dropped them when she'd made her declaration. However, that hadn't happened 323/1/12. "So she can't have a nuke or anything." The important thing [for her] was [getting] the rebels to believe she may have nukes. thereby causing (endless) stress to the soldiers who would be excessively cautious. Jumpy nerves gave rise to unpredictable mistakes. And that would leave holes that could be taken advantage of.

"That proclamation was a 'bluff'....." Surely if [she] gave the rebels a jolt, that would be an effective action at present. There may be a very skilled tactician behind her. Or, he could not deny the possibility, the fifteen-year-old girl [herself] was a natural strategist. "Huh.....that's funny." It was the rebels who had a much higher chance of using nukes in a double suicide [#2] and ought to be the feared quantity. It seemed as though the rebel naval ensign had to face a rival far more fearsome than the Earth Sphere United Alliance Army.

"I wonder what kind of girl she is.....do you want to meet her, too?" A smile played on his lips; he stroked Spade's head. Martix Rex harbored feelings close to adoration for the girl named Katerina Peacecraft.

\*

This year's winter was warmer than any other before. Instead of snow piling up, it was more frequently sleet and rain that fell. It was a slow, not-cold winter that made Cinq Kingdom's uninvited guests, the rebels, even more uncomfortable. That day was also unseasonable; Northern Europe was hit by a heavy storm, a ((winter tempest)). Ocean-facing Cinq Kingdom was especially choppy. Thunder roared in the dark clouds; the wind was strong and the waves high. In the raging waters of Cinq Kingdom Bay, the rebel navy was preparing for anti-aircraft fighting even as it was tossed wildly. In the high altitude clouds, a patrol aircraft outfitted with a high power radar was making rounds. The sum total of gun turrets on the battleships, cruisers, guardships and all numbered several hundred and were aimed at the barely visible upper sky, preparing for action. They were waiting intently for the patrol to report "enemy attack!" For the sake of establishing aerial strategic predominance, they had completed preparations of an aircraft carrier and carrier based planes capable of rapid acceleration. When the enemy appeared, their plan was to attack from both upper and lower flanks, and the rebel navy was desperate to avoid everything save the worst case scenario of 'nuclear usage.' On the bridge of the flagship *Robin Hood*, the supreme commander and chief of staff were [feeling] irritation at the patrols' reports of 'all clear.'

"She'll attack, won't she?"

"What else could she do in a time like this?"

Behind those two was Martix, who was feeling the same way.

"That decision was correct. The problem is where the attack will come from....." Strategically and tactically, it was unthinkable to have the fleet take action in such bad weather. Although they were ready to intercept an attack, it would be close to a miracle [if they managed it]. The officers' leadership abilities were praise-worthy. However--they were limiting their predicted attack too much to the sky. Martix didn't think to make a suggestion. He didn't mean to change his half-sulking attitude that *brats butt the hell out*. There were any number of holes in the rebel navy's [defenses]. In the storm, the interval between the ships was several times greater than usual to avoid knocking against each other. As a result, it was difficult to coordinate [on many points], the protection of the flagship *Robin Hood* was full of holes, and they were rather unprepared for anything resembling a battle formation.

"I hope we don't run into any trouble." The young officer's aide was sneering like it was someone else's business as they awaited the descent of the 'Stateless Princess' who was likely to finally appear. The swirling black clouds undulated unnervingly; driving rain beat cruelly down upon the ships deck. Under those terrible conditions, they had spent more than twelve hours straight in a state of preparedness [for the battle]. The soldiers had already passed

the threshold of their endurance and tension. A light flashed. It was (the natural phenomenon of) lightning. It hit a lightning rod on one of the outer guard's ship's radars. The commander of one of the consort ships, upon witnessing that spectacle, believed it was an enemy attack [#3]. He instantly ordered the main guns to return fire; the other ships, under too much tension, were drawn into opening fire on the sky without so much as fixing their aim. Seconds later, the sky exploded at once with gunfire from the fleet. The same time the bombardment ceased, several interceptors were sent from the large aircraft carrier. All of this [was part of the] planned combat action.

"Cease fire! All hands, cool it! We haven't received a report from the airborne patrol! The enemy hasn't turned up!" said the Chief of Staff, the most restless of them all, as he tried to suppress the jolt/fluctuating in the area 324/2/7-8. But then--

The radar operator shouted, "Behind us, six o'clock, a craft is approaching us at low altitude!"

"So calm down already!"

[The Chief of Staff could only imagine it was] one of their own interceptors, one that had been damaged by the friendly fire [alt: mistakenly damaged]. The communications officer was next to report.

"Telegram from the approaching craft! They seek permission to land on our ship!"

"Ask their assignment/unit! Which corps are they from?"

"Cinq Kingdom.....goes by the name Peacecraft."

"What?!"

The white craft--

Katerina's Wyvern wove through the battleships and enemy guard ships that were sitting in a row; she flew fast and low as though cutting across the raging surface of the water and approached the flagship *Robin Hood*. It was possible to attack from the rear at the closest approach point, but Wyvern rose vertically and from directly overhead, checked Robin Hood.

"This is Katerina Peacecraft, in the event I do not receive permission to land, I have no quibbles about 324/3/2-3 using extreme measures."

Upon receiving that transmission, permission to land was readily given. The words 'extreme measures' gave the impression of being a final warning. The downpour ceased so suddenly, it was like it hadn't been raining at all. The wind, however, still howled. The leaden (color) ocean undulated unbelievably. Wyvern descended; it was neither (flapped) by the wind nor hesitated from the swaying of its hull as it easily touched down. It was Martix and the officers who went out to meet her. Katerina Peacecraft opened the cockpit hatch and got a thrill out of sliding down to the deck.

"Welcome to the *Robin Hood*!"

The lower officers saluted as one.

"Princess Katerina, we welcome you from [the bottom] of our hearts," Martix spoke not out of protocol, but from his own desire. Katerina (magnificently) removed her helmet to properly greet them. Her beautiful, long golden hair streamed in the crosswind.

"Thank you for the courteous welcome," she answered with a winning smile. And to the commlink in the helmet, she said, "Wait here, Sam."

"Meow."



The hatch closed automatically and locked with a click. The lower/subordinate officers were nervous. They didn't hear the response from the wireless transmitter, but that she [even] had someone to contact meant they couldn't easily (lit: carelessly) muddle with her. Martix, seeing his comrades in such a comical state, had to suppress a laugh.

Katerina was shown to the war room. The Supreme Commander and Chief of Staff were standing at attention with sour looks on their faces. After both of them made polite greetings, [Katerina], in her pilot's suit, told them to be at ease and [she] sat opposite them, setting her helmet by her hands.

"Thank you for preparing a place for our discussions. For the sake of avoiding needless bloodshed, I'd like everyone in the rebel forces to accept the cease-fire [I now] propose."

Half in sarcasm, the Commander said, "Cease-fire? You mean surrender? Very well, we accept."

"No," Katerina immediately denied. The Commander and Chief couldn't help but be worried about the helmet sitting on the table. They had misgivings that she could remotely control the fighter ship from the commlink and come attacking then and there. They were groundlessly suspicious that, in the worst case, she might use [her] 'nuke.' Her proposal, however, was outside the Commander's expectations.

"I'm thinking [we should] combine forces and challenge the United Earth Sphere Alliance in battle."

"What did you say?"

A smile played on her lips. But those blue eyes were serious. "If the Cinq Kingdom, is revived, my country and your rebel forces can join in a military alliance and make a bid to rise up against the unreasonable and arrogant Alliance Army."

--AC 146 January--

Severely cold waves swept slowly towards Northern Europe from the end of the year. It felt like it had gotten back to a normal year [weather-wise]. Snow fell on the Baltic Sea. At night, the surface would freeze over. This sea's only link to the open ocean ((the North Sea)) was a strait; its waters had low salinity and low temperatures. The vast white ocean all around was like a dream/illusion. But the ice wasn't so thick that the ships couldn't move. As a result of Katerina's bargaining, the King and Queen of Cinq were released from their imprisonment from the guardhouse aboard the Robin Hood. Initially, they thought Katerina to be her older sister Sabrina. They soon understood their mistake and apologized deeply.

"Truly, we are sorry, Katerina....."

"Please don't worry about it. I only did what any Peacecraft would do."

The King and Queen had aged greatly during their long imprisonment. When they heard Sabrina was alive and well on L-1, they burst into (bitter) tears on the spot. There was no (reason) the future of the Cinq Kingdom could be entrusted to the elderly couple. They decided [they would] formally transfer the crown and by so doing, make a free and peaceful country. For that, the United Earth Sphere Alliance's oppression must be abolished. That was the intent of [their] military alliance with the rebels.

On the one hand, making a military alliance was good, but [on the other], the rebel army was rife with signs of defeat. When they learned the truth that Katerina's Wyvern was not carrying any nukes, the rebel executives immediately considered withdrawing from and annulling their pact [with Katerina]. They did, however, sense that Katerina was of a rather high caliber. [It was her] flight technique through their fleet's defensive formation singularly and in a storm. [It was her] courage to land on the flagship. [It was her] diplomatic capabilities that lead to a binding (alliance pact). And [it was her] design (lit: ability) to think of later strategic and tactical plans to resist the Alliance

Army which surrounded Cinq. All of that was a high standard that surpassed them [the rebels]. Above all else, she was tremendously popular among the lower officers and soldiers, Katerina was like something of an idol [#4]. Even the female soldiers had not even a (particle) of jealousy and welcomed her as a fellow peace-searching person. Just a few days after falling to Earth, Katerina Peacecraft was the rebels' symbol of hope-- it got to the point where she was called the 'Joan of Arc of AC.' She bore a flag of freedom, under which the people of the Cinq Kingdom gathered first; even the people of the neighboring countries who had been opposing the rebel forces with resistance activities approved of the rebels and Katerina's ideas and afterwards; there was no lack of new recruits. Given all this, this alliance was beneficial and it was decided that Katerina was necessarily indispensable for opposing the Alliance Army. However, there was also no questioning that the rebels were leaning towards a disadvantage in their current 'nuke' free state and when it reached the ears of the Alliance Army that they had released the Peacecrafts as their hostages, it would be possible for the Alliance Army to launch an all out attack.

\*

On the other hand, the Earth Sphere United Alliance Army's Marina Fleet had [plenty of] leeway. It might be better said that they had too much. They even knew about Katerina Peacecraft's return. Even when they had received information about the unregistered fighter plane Wyvern--code named 'Sam'--and knew of its abilities, they took no action. In recognizing the fact that a military satellite had been scrapped, [they perceived it was] a military act against unmanned weaponry, there was no way it had been an (aerial battle) victory. As long as they didn't possess 'nukes', [Wyvern] was nothing but a 'single, new type of fighter plane.' They were different from the rebels who plainly couldn't hide their unrest. In reality, that point was a big difference. The Third Flotilla [#5], which was in the Baltic Sea blockading the Cinq Kingdom Bay, had complete confidence in the on-hand air power of their ship-based fighter planes. That was was their clover-class, double-hulled [#6], large-scale aircraft carrier which was base for three varieties of (large), cutting edge war machines [called] the {Gunship Armor} [G Armor]: the high-speed fighters, {Gunship Force/ G Force}; the mobile fighters, {Gunship Fighters/G Fighters}; the heavy bombers, {Gunship Bombers/G Bombers}.

Those were arranged in thirty squadrons of five, and counting the scouters, support crafts, attack helicopters, transport helicopters, and so on, their aerial fighting power was close to two hundred [strong]. It was equivalent to twice what the rebel navy had. Moreover, the Alliance Army had, in the opening of Kattegat [#7] Strait in the North Sea, placed the clover aircraft carrier with the Fourth and Fifth Flotillas at its nucleus. Surely this was a complete iron-clad double blockade. If the rebel forces' fleet shot out into the North Sea ((open ocean)) and fought, the Alliance Army [would still] have it in hand with their six-fold military power and amount of resources.

The Third Flotilla had as yet been unable to (inattentively/uarelessly) invade due to the rebels having sought refuge deep in Cinq Kingdom Bay. And another source of hesitation was that the royal family of Cinq (the Peacecrafts) had been taken hostage before. Although that had ended when Katerina returned. The Alliance Army was in a state of being able to act without any second thoughts. So much so that they were thinking of dropping a limited-release nuclear warhead on the Cinq Kingdom, as per the original plan. They had decided, when spring came and melted the surface ice, that they would commence an all out attack. Preparations for that were progressing steadily--

\*

Speaking of their alliance, the executives of the rebel army still didn't completely trust Katerina. Under the pretext of being her aide, the senior officer on the Chiefs of Staff appointed Martix [with the duty of] surveillance of [the princess]. Martix himself also wished for that job. For him, he was pleased that the pretext of providing surveillance meant he could always be with Katerina.

"This way, Princess Katerina." Martix showed Katerina to the dock where Wyvern was being serviced. There had been talk of the rebel forces' engineers being able to raise the burner output and improve its stealth abilities.

It was a strange man who always wore gaudy Hawaiian shirts even in the dead of winter and sunglasses even at

night who was leading the main-engine (reforms).

"Replacing (lit: transship) the S & A dual propulsion system with only A types! Who gives a rat's ass, there won't be anymore fighting in space! That alone will give [me] twenty percent more output! Let's do the side thruster while we're at it!"

"If we do that Mike, there'll be some serious G forces at acceleration!" 327/1/1<

"Let 'Sam' worry about the pilot! By changing her into a high-speed machine 327/2/2, I'll get three times the mobility! I'll make her blow the doors off [anything in the sky] without even having wings!!"

The one who got into the cockpit to work on the ECM apparatus was a scientist with a mean look, a long nose, and a distinctive hair style. This man also was an odd bird; he only answered to the initials 'D.D.' He spoke with a sneer to the computer 'Sam.'

"Hn, a small-scope stealth [device] like this wouldn't provide cover.....I have my 'super jammer.' I'll install them now."

"Meow."

"This'll make [you] stronger. Be happy, you aren't to be a 'fighter' but you will become a 'work of art.'"

The technicians, gathered around Wyvern and making improvements, were exactly like children with new toys.

"The upgrades are going smoothly, Princess Katerina."

"Just Katerina, Lieutenant Rex."

"Then please call me Martix."

"Aren't you Rex?" [#8]

"Well, that name (surpasses) me." {Rex} was latin for 'king.'

"Okay, Martix," she said as she plucked a dog hair from his military uniform. "Do you have a dog somewhere?"

Martix answered with embarrassment, "In.....my rooms."

"Aww, you must take it for a walk you know."

".....I go (in the middle of the night). This is kind of a secret, but he's got 'territory' in the Chiefs of Staff's meeting room."

"Just like his owner, hmmm."

"I think so."

"What's his name?"

"Spade."

"Will you let me meet him next time?"

"Yes.....but what about you, Princess?" Katerina glared at him and he hurriedly corrected himself, "Katerina. Aren't you a cat person?"

"I like all animals. Horses and dogs and cats, too."

"Oh."

"Er, but maybe not mice.....or bugs or reptiles."

"Me neither." They both smiled. "Was the real Sam doing okay?"

"Yes, very much so.....but he's still with Marquis Weyridge."

Katerina and Wyvern (who had fallen to Earth), had stayed at the Weyridge residence for a few days. A.I. Sam had advised her not to simultaneously make her war proclamation and attack after she'd reentered [Earth's] atmosphere, but it had largely been the strong admonition that Marquis Weridge had delivered via emergency lines [that stayed her hand].

"The real Sam won't take to me. He only likes Sabrina."

"Even if he doesn't fancy you, he'll come to accept you.....Spade was the same way at first."

Suddenly, Katerina and Martix repeated the words to themselves, 'Sam' and 'Spade'..... It was a name [they'd] heard somewhere before. At the same time, they cried, "Sam Spade!"

"Hammett's 'The Maltese Falcon,' right?"

"I've seen Bogie's film"

"So have I."

They laughed at the coincidence.

"I think we'll be good friends, us two."

"Yes....."

Years later, Martix would marry Katerina's daughter, become the king of the Cinq Kingdom, and advocate 'total pacifism.' He fathered Miliardo and Relena [#9]. But there were many and varied twists and turns down that particular path. Also, that is a story for later.

--AC-146 January 19--

Until this time, the Alliance Army's Third Flotilla, in the Baltic Sea, had reportedly advised the rebel fleet to surrender 328/2/3-4. There had not, however, been so much as a reply. This day, the Third Flotilla's commanding officer was irritated over the rebels' willful ignorance of his counsel. This commander was named Sheist Honneger [#10], father of Daigo Honneger, destroyer of Cinq.

"Why are we waiting for the ice to melt? Why don't we attack all at once and end this once and for all?" So thinking, the entire Third Flotilla had advanced to the point where they could check [the rebels] at any time. If it came down to a naval battle inside the bay, a few sacrifices would likely be made, but if they fought prepared for a war of attrition, he fully expected to win.

"With more than twice the power [of the rebels] , there's no way we could lose!" So thinking, he received a report to the effect that the rebel fleet had left the Cinq Kingdom bay. "They're coming out first?! [ALT: They're making the first move?!]" Commander Honneger laughed, "Idiots! With this Flotilla waiting at the ready, not so much as a cat can get through!" [#11].

However, a lone cat named 'Sam' had been the one to sally forth into the Baltic Sea.--

\*

Wyvern was flying solo.

"This is it, Sam!"

"Meow."

"Battle ship aircraft carrier Clover, Tally Ho!"

"Meow, meow."

Wyvern headed directly for Clover battleship aircraft carrier.

"Meow." Sam sensed the high speed G Force fighters as they took off from the aircraft carrier. Katerina checked the number of enemy crafts on the monitor.

"Everyone's rushing out to meet us! Can you shake them, Sam?"

"Meow."

Dozens of the high-speed G Force fighters flew in a wide arc as they fell into interception formation. They approached from the rear in a dogfight (theory pattern). However, [they were no match] for the speed that the souped-up Wyvern was able to put on. Just when [she?] thought the burners re-ignited with a flash, they tore up with oppressive speed and shot straight up ((chandelle [#12])), circled [#13], and fell in behind the G Force; she then easily shot them down with successive shots from the beam [weapon]. Sam was in charge of the beam trigger.

"That's my Sam.....you missed [hitting] the cockpit."

"Meow."

The enemy pilots, all of them, ejected from their planes and parachuted to safety before their planes crashed. Next up were the mobile fighters, the G Fighters. These machines came head on, launching homing missiles. There was a colossal number of them. Alert mode, which displayed encroaching [bodies] and their trajectories, was packed with [lines] from the missiles.

Sam urged caution, "Meow, meow."

"It's okay! There aren't enough missiles to make it worth using the super jammer," she said as she pulled up on the (control stick) and went balls to the wall on the throttle. Again, Wyvern did a chandelle, flying perpendicular to the mass of missiles and continuing to climb. [She] had the same force and speed as if they were going to exit the atmosphere.

"Urgh.....!" Katerina clenched her teeth and endured the G forces [i.e. gravity, not the planes shooting missiles at her].

"Meow, meow?" Sam was worried. Even though he was A.I., he did have real feelings.

".....leave it to me....." It was an endurance contest between her and the countless missiles. "I have faith in Mike Howard!" She named the technician who had (power-upped) the main engine. "We can still go! We will go further!" With courage that bordered on recklessness, she put on more speed. Actually, this was a method of dealing with homing missiles in the event a great number of them have been launched. Increase the distance between target and missile as much as possible to make the missiles' trajectories as narrow/close together as possible; and eventually, the missiles will crash [into each other], exploding and setting off other [missiles]. Far below Wyvern, there was a huge explosion. That explosion caused the remaining missiles to lose their target and most self-

detonated.

"We did it! Thanks, Mike!" Even so, there were still several missiles still pursuing. "Sam, you can use D.D.'s super jammers!"

"Meow." Sam ran the defense wave [jammers] and stealth abilities. As soon as he did that, the remaining missiles also [lost their target] and exploded in the sky.

When Katerina reached [her aircraft's] maximum altitude, she released the {EMP apparatus A} that she'd received from D.D. Then, she cut the main engine and made Wyvern descend in near total free fall. By the effect of the super jammers, [Wyvern] would be nearly undetectable by the Alliance Army Fleet. It was silent in an instant. There was only the whistling sound of speeding through the air. With a bird's eye view from straight above, the double hulled aircraft carrier with its four runways was in the center of the fleet. With frozen white ripples extending in the four directions, it suggested a huge four leaf clover.

"So that's why that air craft carrier is called 'clover.'"

"Meow."

"Hey Sam, did you know? D.D. stands for 'Diamond Desperado' [#14]!" Katerina snickered. "That gives me Martix's 'Spade,' the aircraft carrier 'Clover,' and D.D.'s 'Diamond.' It's too bad, really. If we had a 'heart,' we'd have all the suits from a deck of cards [#15]."

"Meow meow."

"Oh, yeah! It'd be funny if I started going by the [nickname] 'Queen of Hearts' once I become queen!" That didn't happen. Katerina came to be called the 'Lightning Queen.' And it was this battle that decided it be so.

Wyvern closed in right up to the Clover aircraft carrier's bridge. Controlling its (form) with the reverse thrusters, it hovered in the airspace there. According to Sam's predictions, the Alliance Army's next attack would start with the heavy bomber G Bombers and attack helicopters. [He] wanted to prevent that at all costs. If bombing and close quarters fighting began, Wyvern [could survive] unharmed, but there was the possibility of casualties on the Alliance's side. Making full use of the manipulator(s) atop the dual-headed dragon, Katerina fit {EMP apparatus B} to the radar and communication antennae on the ship's bridge. [The apparatus] corresponded to the {EMP apparatus A} that had been released at high altitude and [together, they] released pulsing electromagnetic waves/radiowaves over a large area ((with a radius of two kilometers)); D.D. had developed it. Owing to the operation of that high powered apparatus, the Alliance Army's Third Flotilla fell into a big panic. First, without use of their communication network, the chain of command was cut off and fleet cooperation ceased. At the same time, aircraft carrier based planes couldn't take off. Only Wyvern could fly freely under those conditions because it had been (loaded) with 'Sam' which had an isolated support system. All at once, Katerina ascended and returned to the rebel fleet. Katerina immediately opened a commlink to the rebel fleet as soon as she cleared the area affected by the EMP.

"This is Katerina! Mission all complete!"

*"This is Robin Hood. Copy that!"*

"That went well, didn't it, Sam!"

"Meow!"

Wyvern returned to the inner Cinq Kingdom bay; as soon as she entered, the rebel army fleet sailed into the Baltic Sea and began fierce cannon fire.

In the Battle of the Baltic, the Alliance's Third Flotilla lost instantly.



--AC February--

In the Baltic, the rebel army doubled their military power by requisitioning clover aircraft carrier and several battleships [from the Battle of the Baltic against the Alliance]. With such a strong navy, it was possible to go beyond the strait of Kattegat and out into the open water of the North Sea [where they could] wage a decisive battle against the Alliance's Fourth and Fifth Flotillas.

Midnight a few days following the attack--

Katerina and Martix took Spade for a walk. After letting [Spade] mark the Chief of Staff's room, they walked leisurely on deck. The night wind was freezing cold and snow fell. Martix took Spade off his lead and let him run around freely. Wyvern was on deck and when Spade got close, the front lights suddenly turned on. And [Wyvern] intimidated [Spade] by opening the thrusters and getting him with a blast of exhaust. Spade turned tail and ran. Katerina and Martix guffawed over the scene. It was funny that Wyvern, the strongest fighter on Earth, unbeatable by G Force or G Fighters, was scared of a little puppy. When Spade came up again, Wyvern next stuck out the manipulator arm and tried to give [Spade] a (cat punch). Katerina even scolded him, "No, Sam! Don't lose your temper."

Wyvern reluctantly stored the manipulator.

Martix laughed as he spoke, "You're a strange person, you are."

"Really?" Katerina cocked her head to the side. She seemed to lack self-awareness.

"Because right now, we're just days away from the decisive battle, but you're the same as usual." There was something he'd been thinking since before as well. Having this rare opportunity, he decided to ask, "Are you familiar with the Oriental board game *shougi*?" [#15.5]

"No, I don't know it."

"The pieces move like they do in 'chess' ((that we often play)), but the rules are rather difficult and all the staffers say: *shougi* doesn't have strategic value in real fighting. So it's unpopular."

"Is it that difficult?"

"When you capture one of your opponents pieces, you can use it as one of your own. So when a single pawn-like soldier gets behind enemy lines, the area in which he can move goes up remarkably," Martix continued chattering, "Another characteristic rule is when the pieces called *hisha* and *kaku*, they move the same as a rook and bishop respectively, get behind enemy lines, they become pieces that are able to move as freely as the *Ryuu*--the Queen."

"Really...." Katerina was probably somewhat bored.

But Martix wanted to tell the end of his story, "Haven't you noticed? Isn't this game exactly like you?"

The princess in Wyvern had descended upon the rebel army fleet's flagship, become a queen, and took command of the rebel army to fight back against the Alliance Army.

"I don't really know." She smiled thinly, "You are giving me a compliment, right?"

"I'm being serious," Martix said from the heart. It might be possible to beat the Earth Sphere United Alliance Army with Katerina. They might be able to obtain everlasting freedom and peace. "Princess Katerina.....please carry on for the sake of eternal ideals," thought Martix, but he didn't speak the words. He believed those blue eyes would once again stare at him. "I can't win against those eyes....." he muttered.

\*

Around the same time, the Alliance Army executives were wracking their brains. The existence of the fighter craft 'Sam' was depressing but the problem was with the {EMP apparatus} that confined all the fleets' war operations. Even as they examined the remains of the [units] that had been scattered in the air and self-detonated via timer, it didn't seem possible for them to recreate the apparatus. If the same apparatus were used in the upcoming naval battle, even the largest of their fleets would unfortunately meet with disaster. The only way to prevent that would be to shoot down Katerina and Sam before the apparatus was set. However, [the pair's] mobility and stealth was better than any of the Alliance Army's crafts; the proof was in their absolute helplessness in the previous naval battle. It was true that the Fourth and Fifth Flotillas would flee miserably.

"No, there is one way," suggested one worried executive. It was Commander Honneger of the Third Flotilla. That man, who had escaped on hands and knees, had been demoted and relieved of his flotilla's commander's responsibilities. "What's necessary is removing that brat and 'Sam'." He had come to have a personal grudge against the royal family of Peacecraft and the Cinq Kingdom.

"Is there a way to do that?"

"I'll see about having the Romefeller Foundation help. Even if they've an accord with the rebels, the Peacecrafts must still be members of the Foundation." Honneger intended to compete by using cunning diplomatic measures.

\*

The following day, the Alliance Army's request was made to the Romefeller Foundation. The current Foundation representative was Duke Cinquante Khushrenada.

"Understood. I will call Princess Peacecraft to the Foundation meeting being held tomorrow afternoon in Luxembourg."

A service man from the Alliance Army executives appeared on the vid link, "I appreciate it," [he said].

Cinquante spoke with a deep nod, "You needn't worry. That military satellite was Gemina something, correct?"

"Gemina MW'."

"There's still the matter of compensation. She would be hard pressed to refuse."

"Do I have your [solemn] word on that?"

"On my honor as a Khushrenada."

"Thank you.....Now, about that fighter."

"Sam' isn't ti?"

"You know it? That will speed things up. Naturally, I expect you will catch it."

"We're a long way from Cinq Kingdom.....she'll probably ride it here. I hope you'll leave it all to me."

"Much obliged."

The service man saluted and cut the transmission. Cinquante smiled as he settled comfortably in his chair.

"What are you playing at, Cinquante?" asked a man in his mid-thirties named Eric Shargold [#16] who was opposite the work desk. He wasn't born to the nobility, but after he inherited a vast fortune, he got important rank in the Romefeller Foundation. He was a close friend of the forty-something Cinquante. They were both single and were strangely like minded.

"The Earth Sphere United Alliance has also grown too big.....it wouldn't be bad to (shave off) some of that influence while we can."

"I agree, but you can't just ignore the Alliance's request.....won't there be several generals at the Foundation conference?"

"No, I intend to listen to their demands."

"How?"

"My dear Eric, you've gotten friendly with Marquis Weyridge, haven't you?"

"I've known him since (my parent's generation)."

"I'd like to get in touch with a young man staying there by the name of Heero Yuy."

\*

In the North Sea, the Alliance Fleet's Fourth and Fifth Flotillas were assembled, just in case. Meaning they were considering the possibility Katerina and Sam may attack early. They passed a tense night. The rebel army fleet broke out from the Kattegat Strait and spread out in the Baltic Sea. Both fleets were prepared to fight. However, the Alliance Army was under a much greater degree of tension. The enemy wasn't limited to coming at them head-on. Perhaps from behind. Perhaps from high-altitude. Or perhaps from the water. The commander was listening to a bulletin from Cinquante Khushrenada.

"Please relax. They have said they will 'Come at any cost'." Since setting up the {EPM apparatus} tonight was the only night Katerina could attack.

*--If only dawn came, if only dawn would come--*

Thought the Alliance fleet's commander. If it was morning, Katerina and Sam would have to go to Luxembourg. If they could just last the night, then that machine was supposed to be seized by the Romefeller Foundation. Not a one among the Alliance's Fourth and Fifth Flotillas could sleep, not the officers or the sailors, nobody. They spent a (desperate) night, long and bitter cold.

Morning came and the sun climbed above the horizon. The Alliance Army side gave an unconscious cheer. Somehow, they'd managed to put off commencing an attack. The sun climbed higher; the sailors' cheers came rasping out, happy that they were miraculously unharmed. The gloomy morning passed and they geared up for a (refreshing) afternoon. In the officers' room, the commanders were having a late breakfast (doubling as lunch).

"In less than an hour, Romefeller Foundation's meeting will start.....we've made it by the skin of our teeth."

The lunch dishes were lined up side by side. Then, it happened. The communications officer on watch came flying into the officers' room.

"Commander, there's trouble!"

"What happened?"

"Strong ECM has been released! Communications are jammed!"

"What?!" There was no doubting the {EPM apparatus} had been activated. "Inconceivable!"

\*

At Romefeller's Luxembourg conference room, Cinquante, Eric, and the Alliance Army's generals impatiently awaited the arrival of Katerina Peacecraft. However, she did not appear even when the [scheduled] start time had come and gone.

"Seems we've been dumped," Eric muttered into Cinquante's ear.

"No, on a date, it's not unusual for a man to be kept waiting a minute or two," said Cinquante and he climbed atop the dais. "It is now time to begin, if everyone would please take their seats," he greeted. The buzzing in the conference room silenced.

"Duke Khushrenada!" One of the old Alliance Army generals stood as he emphatically called out, "Today, Princess Katerina of the Cinq Kingdom is supposed to be here! I demand an explanation for why she has yet to appear!"

"My apologies for keeping you waiting....." The large, heavy door at the entrance to the conference room opened slowly. Standing there was a young lady with beautiful long blonde hair and clear blue eyes. "I am Peacecraft of Cinq." Behind her stood a tall youth with black hair.

"Welcome, Princess.....this way, please," Cinquante showed her to her seat. Eric grinned. The gorgeous princess crossed the red rug as she nodded to those in the conference room. The Alliance generals thought the girl passing before them was suspicious.

"Is that the real deal?"

"The face and stature match the data we'd received.....it's got to be her."

"Surely you recall she has a twin sister."

"No, I lost my sister in an accident last fall."

"So what was that report from the Fifth Flotilla a few minutes ago? 'We were attacked by Katerina and Sam,' they definitely said that!"

The generals didn't know: the Cinq Kingdom princess in that room was Sabrina Peacecraft. The conference room got noisy. The Alliance Army's generals' voices were especially loud.

"Do the generals have any questions?" Cinquante asked airily.

"Y...yes, that lady from Cinq Kingdom, er, well, she's truly a Peacecraft?"

Cinquante cut off the old general's faltering question to say, "I shall answer your question. However, you may not trust my own words. Shall we have the lady herself speak?"

"Yes, let's."

"Gentleman, a word first: the lady is judicious and currently is an ardent admirer of the philosopher Immanuel Kant; she prescribes to his philosophy 'falsehoods are a sin'. In other words, she will not lie."

"That's excellent."

"Now, Princess.....would you be so kind as to answer the question?"

"Yes....." Sabrina ascended to dais, she looked at the faces of the nobility and generals present. She was at ease. "I am the daughter of the house of Peacecraft."

"If so, then let's ask! I most certainly cannot believe that the Cinq Kingdom and the rebel forces have entered into an

alliance! You support the Earth Sphere United Alliance after all, do you not?!"

"The Earth Sphere United Alliance meant to drop a nuclear warhead on my country."

"That's not true!"

"I do not believe the ESUA's attempt to ruin a country that supports [the Alliance] is the proper action. Accordingly, the Cinq Kingdom secedes from the Earth Sphere United Alliance and concludes [i.e. enters into] an alliance with the people who are called rebels. I am sorry that this comes ex post facto. Please accept my apologies."

"Tsk....[#17] the satellite," the old general hurriedly swallowed the phrase 'you got the satellite.' "An artificial satellite that was made to protect our Earth from meteorites and space debris was destroyed by someone. That was your doing, wasn't it?"

"I have done no such thing."

"Then 'Sam' did it all by itself?"

"No, 'Sam' also has done no such thing."

Then, Eric broke in, "We of the Romefeller Foundation have confirmed that the attack satellite's flying off in (scrap orbit) was a complete accident. It is a heavy expense, but the [financial] burden should be shouldered by all the countries."

"No, we can't do that! If the actions were to protect her own country of Cinq, then it is Peacecraft who ought to pay damages!"

"Then you acquiesce, do you, General? That you meant to drop a nuclear warhead on my country."

"Urk."

The old general had hanged himself with that one careless phrase. Nevertheless, that did no mean he would [give up].

"No, no! Princess, you have just confirmed! The existence of 'Sam'! Why have you not brought [it] with you?"

"No, I've brought him along as requested."

"Brought...him along?" [#17.5]

"Heero-sensei, would you mind?"

The young man standing at the door was Heero Yuy. Against his chest he held the Norwegian forest cat 'Sam.'

"Allow me to introduce you. This is my 'Sam'."

Heero ascended the dais as he stared at the blubbing generals. 'Sam' meowed. Heero handed 'Sam' to Sabrina and then bent towards the microphone, "Excuse me....a moment please?"

The old generals, excited with fury, showered abuse: LIES!; You mock us?; Enough of this foolishness!

In a low, quiet voice, Heero said, "Shut up, you old coots [#18]." All at once, silence fell. "Everything she says is the truth....." with an even sharper look, he added, "And every last one of you is wrong!"

\*

Dusk that day--

In the North Sea, the great battle between the Earth Sphere United Alliance Army's Fourth and Fifth Flotillas and the rebel fleet concluded with a great difference, [courtesy of] Katerina Peacecraft and Wyvern. Of course, the rebel side was victorious. The Earth Sphere United Alliance Army, which prided itself on being invincible, lost for the very first time since its inception in AC 133.

MC-0022 NEXT WINTER

They had come within a distance of several minutes of Elysium Island. Naina turned around and said, "Looks like I wasn't able to shake off our pursuer." She switched on the high-speed large-scale transport ship's autopilot. "It was probably that kid who followed us."

"By 'that kid', you mean Duo Maxwell?" muttered Katrine. As expected, they both were quick to catch on. Neither the enemy-detection radar nor the observation satellite had picked up on anything yet. Naina, moreover, used the commlink to call the 909th Mars Federal Special Independent Squadron, a.k.a. "Merciless Faeries", for emergency deployment.

With a nervous look, my mother asked, "Are you going?"

"Don't worry, Mother.....it'll be just like going on a picnic." I casually took out the lunch box. "I'm glad I got enough sandwiches for Duo." I answered as I looked at the weather map on the monitor, "A sandstorm is coming."

"That's Duo's Warlock," Naina said with a sharp look. "{Queen of Hearts} attack!" [#19]

To be continued..

#1 - Well I'm going with my best guess (which is based on what I think it should be as a straight transliteration looks stupid) until such a time as I can figure out what this name is supposed to be; I did google a few permutations there of and the one I thought fit best (only because it references a person as opposed to some random-ass company and/or OS system) was Martić, a Croatian painter.

#2 - that's a pretty literal interpretation, but it kind of fits, no?

#3 - Cultural note: Japanese in general seem pretty wary of thunder and lightning. Strangely, it's the thunder that gets the biggest response, which I find puzzling since it's the lightning that will potentially kill you. So while it seems totally retarded that a military commander would get set off by lightning, even with the stress (I shall refrain from commenting on the mental preparedness I would expect of a military commander...), I suppose this makes some amount of "cultural" sense.

#4 - Cultural note: this is a transliteration of the English word "idol" and when it is used, it refers to a pop culture figure. This is actually a JOB, one can be employed as an "aidoru" and as far as I can tell, their primary function is to look fucking cute and push products and/or appear on mindless Japanese TV.

#5 - Why Flotilla? My brief inspection of the Wiki for Japanese naval crap gave me the impression the general organization seemed to be this, from largest to smallest: Fleet --> Flotilla --> Squadron. A bit later in the chapter (like, a paragraph or two?) it seems like the Third Whatever is comprised of 30 vessels which are split into groups of 5, I reckon those 5 are the smallest grouping, ergo the "squadron" and the thirty ships that got divided are one of the "flotillas."

#6 - literally, the word was "twin fuselage" but since ships don't have "fuselages" but "hulls" they mean a double hull... since a ship with two "bodies" would be a catamaran... ALTHOUGH, having two "bodies" would give this fictional ship it's fictional shape. How in the world would a clover shaped aircraft carrier MOVE, though?



#7 - Okay, so Cinq is officially somewhere in the Sweden/Denmark area! Kattegat is a real place (right there and the word seems to refer more the the water BETWEEN the nor North and Baltic Seas, but whatevs).

#8 - Pet Peeve: with the exception of Quarant (Jay's uni buddy) (okay, and Wufei but that extends to the original series, too...odd) is referred to by their FIRST (listed and in the GW universe, that is usually their GIVEN name. With the exception of Wufei, who is generally written/noted as being Chang Wufei after Chinese fashion. Why, then, Heero isn't always listed as Yuy Heero, I don't know since Japan is every bit as immured in that tradition as China is). There just seems to be no rhyme or reason for any of this "using the first name" business.

#9 - grammatically, this is a sentence structure I don't worry about too much, but in THIS case, it seems like the tense is kind of important. It does NOT literally say he "fathered" the kids, but he was the father of the kids...I suppose King Rex has long since passed in the MC-0022 era, but I'm not sure when these files (opening of the chapter: Peacecraft File 3) are supposed to have been from...so...eh.

#10 - This is, I believe, the Russian number for 6. If anyone has a better spelling than this one I got based off the actual SOUND of the word as opposed to a transliteration of the Japanese (which would have looked something like this: She-shichi) I would be much obliged.

#11 - while it seems terribly, er, BAD to have Honneger "randomly" say a \*cat\* would have trouble getting past their defenses, there are quite a few Japanese expressions that use "cat." If you're breasts are quite small, you are "cat-boobed," if your garden is quite small, you have a garden the size of "a cat's forehead," if you are extremely busy, you wouldn't mind "having the cat lend a hand." So even if this isn't an ACTUAL idiom, there is a precedent for comparing things to cats OUTSIDE frozen teardrop.

#12 - Chandelle. According to Wikipedia

(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chandelle>)

a licensed pilot (my mother)

AND the FAA

([http://www.faa.gov/library/manuals/aircraft/airplane\\_handbook/media/faa-h-8083-3a-4of7.pdf](http://www.faa.gov/library/manuals/aircraft/airplane_handbook/media/faa-h-8083-3a-4of7.pdf))

A Chandelle is a maneuver where, basically, you turn 180 degrees. As my mother describes it, you start by getting your aircraft up to its safest maximum speed, commence a turn and at the same time, decrease your speed so that, by the time you exit the turn, you are traveling at your aircrafts safest slow speed. In aircrafts with engines, you will also rise (as shown by wikipedia). In aircrafts without engines, you will probably stay level.

However, I also asked my father, who also used to fly and, being a man, is generally interested in things like airplanes and stuff. He described a chandelle as being a move where the pilot pulls straight back on the stick, making the aircraft shoot up, perpendicular to the ground, and just before the aircraft stalls, hits the rudder to execute a turn and heads straight back down. The maneuver ends when the pilot pulls out of the turn, heading in the opposite direction from which they entered the turn. HOWEVER, I found nothing on Wikipedia NOR youtube that matches this maneuver. Nothing stood out in the FAA manual either, but THIS particular move seems closer to what Sumizawa probably wants...and is a LOT more interesting than what a "real" Chandelle is. There is also the possibility that a Chandelle is not the same maneuver in all countries, but a quick Japanese wikipedia search yields the same old "turn around fast-slow" thing.

#13 - this seems silly given that they've just turned around, but okay. UNLESS Sumizawa is ignoring the fact that a chandelle IS just turning around (and only keep the speed + gaining altitude in planes with engines)

#14 - All I could find for this name was "Neil Diamond, Desperado" where Desperado is the title of a 2010 song.

#15 - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suit\\_\(cards\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suit_(cards)) that's pretty cool, I never knew there so much variety in what seems like a simple deck of cards. Incidentally, I am aware that the Clover aircraft carrier is said to have FOUR runways and compared to a four-leaf clover but an actual CLUB only has THREE 'leaves' and a 'stem.' I suppose we'll just

chalk that up to Sumizawa and creative license. That's not as big of a stretch as having an aircraft carrier actually HAVING four runways in such a configuration so as to GET a clovery shape.

#### #15.5 - 将棋 しょうぎ shougi

Long story short: with the exception of very high frequency words (like Tokyo, for example), I prefer to denote all vowels present even if it doesn't follow the government's official(ly stupid) "rules" for romanizing Japanese.

#16 - guessing at the last name (and spelling of the first name, it seems pretty obvious that it's some permutation of "Eric" but then again, "Relena" is actually pronounced "Ree.ree.ee.na" so just another name crapshoot.

#17 - Er, this is actually, LITERALLY "ku" but it's just a noise of frustration, which I think "tsk" kind of is.

#17.5 - Well, there is "bring along" for inanimate objects and "bring along" for people. That is the distinction being made here, but it does not carry over into English well. The generals are obviously expecting Wyvern "Sam" and use the verb for bringing inanimate objects, but Sabrina says she brought "Sam" using the verb for animate objects (that is to say: the cat "Sam") and the General is confused about why she refers to having brought a LIVING thing when they are expecting a machine.

#18 - Literally, this is ジジイ which is, in the broadest sense, "old man." However, in the common vernacular, using this word is really quite rude. I'd say it's akin to "old bag" for a woman...but what is the equivalent for a man? Old coot seems to fit the bill, but it's not as... RUDE as "old bag" seems to be to me \*shrugs\*

#19 - [this may contain spoilers, but it's just my speculation as it's vague to ME, but perhaps not to native speakers?]

OH, this phrase hurts my brain. Literally, we have one noun (Queen of Hearts) and one verb phrase (attack + the verb used to turn nouns into verbs), alike so:

ハートのクイーン出撃する!

So, what could this possibly mean? My theories are listed below in no particular order:

1. The Queen of Hearts is going to attack Naina et al.

ハートのクイーンが出撃する

--this makes the least sense because, if it's just Naina et al plus Warlock, where would this queen COME from?

2. The Queen of Hearts is going to attack Warlock

ハートのクイーンがワーロックを出撃する

--this makes the most sense because their transport is obviously large enough to have scooped Katrine and HER transport that was carrying the MS [or was it just the MS?] out of the desert.

3. Attack the Queen of Hearts

ハートのクイーンを出撃する

--linguistically, I think this makes the most sense give the bare bones of a "sentence." This sentence lacks what's called a "particle" which is the little bit of GLUE that clearly defines the relationship between nouns and verbs. So depending on what particle is (or is NOT in this case) there, the meaning of the sentence can be open to interpretation. I know commas aren't a typical feature of Japanese (well, actually, I believe punctuation in GENERAL is a relatively new feature of the language and THEIR comma usage DOES NOT match up to English comma usage) but even if there's been a COMMA in there, it'd be easier to interpret.

Personally, though, I think it means Naina et al will send the Queen of Hearts to attack Warlock and my first thought was that Katrine would pilot, but since she's got no blood connection to Peacecraft (which, as you recall, Princess Katerina was lamenting not having a nickname with the word "heart" in this chapter) so I wonder if it might not be Relena sallying forth.

